

Where's our gay TV?

Viacom pull plug on *Outlet* channel, but gay-themed shows abound on Bravo.

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A 'new' bar in the Castro

Revamped *Detour* gets set to reopen its doors next month.

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The toast of Davies

Catching up with Patti LuPone.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Jane Philomen Cleland

Mike Salinas was honored by MCC-SF on July 25, 1999.

**Former
B.A.R.
editor Mike
Salinas
dies at 46**

by Cynthia Laird

Mike Salinas, the former news editor of the *Bay Area Reporter*, died this week in his New York City home. He was 46.

Pending an autopsy, the cause of death has not been determined. The medical examiner's office indicated an autopsy could take eight weeks.

Police were summoned to the home early Tuesday morning, July 15, by Mr. Salinas's close friend, Brian Carmichael, who also lives at the house. Officer Cornelius with the New York Police Department on Tuesday, July 15 tentatively described the death as an accidental drug overdose.

On Wednesday, July 16 Mr. Salinas's sister, Starr LaTronica, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that her preliminary discussions with the medical examiner indicated that Mr. Salinas had heart disease and could have suffered a heart attack.

Mr. Salinas and Carmichael had been partners, but Mr. Salinas told this reporter in two separate conversations earlier this year that the two had split up, though they remained roommates and close friends.

Staffers at the B.A.R. and Mr. Salinas's friends and family members were stunned to learn of his sudden death.

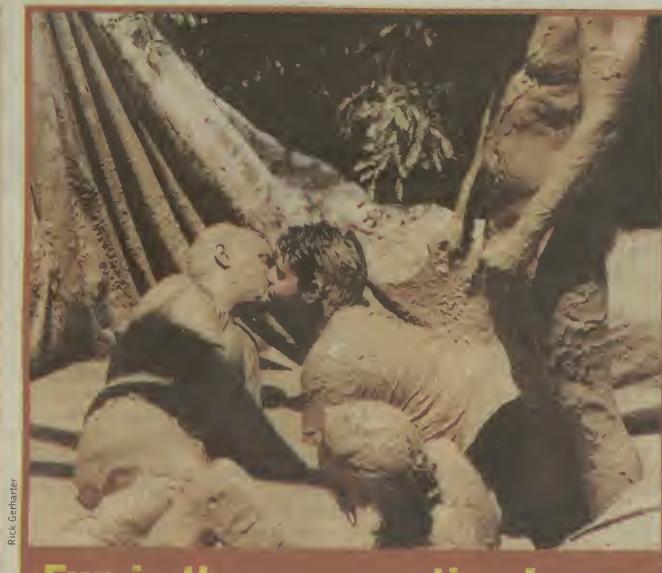
Carmichael told the B.A.R. that he had last seen Mr. Salinas early Monday morning.

"I got home at around 8 p.m. Monday and the door to his room was closed," Carmichael said on Tuesday. "This morning I called to him, waited some more, and at around 8 a.m. I opened the door. He was on the floor."

Police confirmed that they had been called to the home Tuesday morning at approximately 7:30 a.m. and discovered Mr. Salinas's body. They also confirmed an autopsy would be performed.

"He dazzled so many people," Mr. Salinas's father, Rick, told the B.A.R. "He was loved and respected by an enormous number of people here."

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Fun in the summertime!

Last weekend's warm weather made for a night full of the annual sumo-wrestling event held at the Bayview Tavern Saturday, July 12, 2003. We hope you were caught with a kiss.

Guerrilla stickerers take their message to the streets

by Matthew S. Bajko

The bright neon orange color draws the attention of passersby who are forced to look down at the ground to read a new form of direct marketing appearing in the Castro, South of Market, and Polk Street areas.

Based on a Keith Haring drawing, the stickers say "Queer Life is Fresh! Speed is wack!" with the "d" in speed inverted and the "w" purposefully missing from wack. An alien-looking figure is snorting crystal and holding a burning "queer" dollar bill in one hand as human figures fall apparently from the sky, with one marked with an X to denote death.

The stickers are the latest in what some call guerrilla stickering, messages that are an-in-your-face attempt to shake up the perceived apathy in the gay community around everything from speed use and HIV to capitalism and group think. In recent months this type of protesting has gained renewed cachet among gay activists.

Groups such as Queer Nation, ACT UP, and Lesbian Avengers all used stickering to get their messages across to the gay community during the 1980s and early 1990s. Then for some reason stickering lost favor.

In recent months, guerrilla stickering has made a comeback. Near gay bars around town someone has stuck "Use Condom Sense STOP AIDS" stickers on the ground. Another person went around and placed "Dead Wrong" stickers over the "HIV is a LIE" message that ACT UP/San Francisco had spray painted in black on Castro streets.



Guerrilla stickers at 18th and Castro streets warn gays about the dangers of crystal methamphetamine, or speed.

During Pride weekend, one individual posted a series of "Hey Gay Brother" stickers on poles in the Castro. The pink stickers with black lettering started off "Hey Gay Brother You Are More Than" followed by "The right party," "Neg or Poz," "Who rejects you," "What you buy," "What they think," "Who cruises you," or "Who fucks you."

Although it is illegal to post such stickers on sidewalks, many in the gay community are nevertheless happy to see them going up. Whether people like them or not, they do create a sense of vibrancy in the community and spark debate on topics many would rather keep in the closet.

"These stickers going up in the neighbor-

page 22 ►

Pride shamed by Web hacker

by Zak Szymanski

Members of the radical direct action group Gay Shame received an unexpected surprise last Thursday July 10 while they were updating their regular Web site at www.gayshame.org.

Apparently typing in the wrong Web address, they entered www.gayshame.org, and were instantly redirected to Fred Phelps's www.godhatesfags.com site.

Phelps, of the Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas, is well-known for his antigay tirades. He often brings groups of people to picket and protest the funerals of AIDS and hate crimes victims across the country.

What came next was even more shocking to Gay Shame, however: a quick investigation revealed that the owner of several "Gay Shame" domain names — including www.gayshame.org, gayshame.com, gayshame.net, gayshame.us, gayshame.info, and gayshame.biz — was Teddy Witherington, executive director of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee.

Within a few days, Gay Shame released a statement condemning the Pride Committee for helping to spread the hatred of Phelps, and linking that hatred to the Gay Shame name.

"SF Pride Director Buys Gay Shame Domain Names — And Uses Them to Advertise Hate Speech," read the title of the Gay Shame release.

Witherington quickly responded by transferring ownership of the domain names over to Gay Shame. At press time, all of those domain names no longer redirect users to godhatesfags.com, and instead pointed to the www.gayshame.org site.

In a phone interview on Monday, July 14, Witherington told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the Pride Committee bought the domain names "a while ago" in order "to keep them from falling into the wrong hands." He said he had no idea who was responsible for linking the names to Phelps's site.

In an e-mail released by Witherington on page 20 ►

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Forum on Leno's medical pot advisory measure Tuesday

by Cynthia Laird

As the federal government steps up its efforts to thwart California's Proposition 215, the medical marijuana law, city officials will meet next week in a daylong forum to discuss implementing San Francisco's Proposition S, which calls for the city to explore the possibility of cultivating and distributing medical marijuana.

Proposition S was authored by former supervisor and now Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), shortly before he took office in Sacramento. He and other supporters billed the forum – to take place Tuesday, July 22 – as a way to gather community input and discuss the serious legal issues that surround medical marijuana.

"I'm glad it's been getting all the attention that it has," Leno said, referring to medical mariju-

ana issues. "I was upset to read in the newspaper that the Bush administration wants to revoke licenses of doctors."

Leno was referring to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that stated the Bush administration had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to let federal authorities punish California doctors who recommend medical marijuana to their patients. The federal government would revoke the federal prescription licenses of doctors who tell their patients marijuana would help them, a prerequisite for obtaining the drug under Proposition 215, which was approved by California voters in 1996. The Justice Department is appealing a ruling by an appellate court in San Francisco that said the proposed penalty would violate the freedom of speech of both doctors and patients, the *Chronicle* reported Friday, July 11.

"If the Supreme Court rules in favor, it will be the end of Propo-

sition 215," Leno said of the latest challenge by the Justice Department.

The Supreme Court is in recess now, but is expected to decide whether it will hear the case when its new term begins in October.

"We're at war with the federal government and they're at war with us," Leno said. "I think Proposition S is a good, thoughtful position for the city to consider."

Leno has invited representatives of various groups to the forum. Attorney Gerald Uelmen is expected to give an overview of the legal issues; the Santa Clara University law professor is currently representing several people in the Santa Cruz medical marijuana case. San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan is also expected, as is Kamala Harris, a deputy city attorney and former assistant district attorney who is challenging Hallinan in this year's election. San Francisco page 20 ►

Santa Cruz challenges federal medical pot law

by Liz Highleyman

Afederal court in San Jose heard arguments earlier this month in a lawsuit filed by the city and county of Santa Cruz and patients of the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana against U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, drug czar John Walters, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case, in which arguments were heard July 8, is the first brought by a local government challenging federal laws against medical cannabis.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in May 2001 that federal law does not permit the use of cannabis for any reason, the plaintiffs argued that the high court left open the issue of whether states could legalize medical marijuana on a states' rights basis. They also argued that cannabis grown and consumed within California falls outside the federal government's regulation of interstate commerce. "What we're asserting here is

the basic, fundamental right of local government and state government to control the health and safety of its citizens," said Gerald Uelmen, a Santa Clara University law professor representing seven WAMM patients who suffer from cancer, AIDS, and chronic pain. "We are not asserting the right to market marijuana, but to cultivate and use it to prolong life and give comfort to the dying."

Federal prosecutor Mark Quinnigan countered that any type of drug trade – commercial or not – is an interstate issue, and that federal drug laws override state laws. The Department of Justice argued in its court filing that "there is no fundamental right to distribute, cultivate, or possess marijuana or other unapproved and unproven medical cannabis."

The Santa Cruz case stems from a September 2002 DEA raid against WAMM, which provided free cannabis to some 200 mostly terminally ill patients. During the dawn raid WAMM co-directors Valerie and Mike Corral were held at gun point and arrested by DEA

agents, who seized more than 150 marijuana plants in the group's cooperative garden. Last December, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel denied WAMM's request to force the DEA to return the confiscated plants.

Although Valerie Corral (who is among the patient plaintiffs) vowed last fall to continue serving the group's members, the lawsuit claims that since the raid WAMM has been unable to provide patients with their medicine – causing "insurmountable" suffering – and that 15 patients had since died without pain relief.

Fogel expressed sympathy for the patients, and asked plaintiffs to suggest a legal hook that would allow him to circumvent federal law and grant an injunction against further DEA raids.

"Frankly, I'm looking for a hook that's very different from the one I've looked at and been forced to reject," said Fogel. "I would need something new and different."

The judge is expected to issue a ruling later this summer. ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

ADAP is the target of state budget battles

by Matthew S. Bajko

A program that provides life-saving drugs to HIV and AIDS patients is once again coming under attack due to the state's dire fiscal situation.

On Tuesday, July 15, the state Senate rejected a Republican-backed plan to eliminate the state's budget deficit which had included instating copayments as part of California's AIDS Drug Assistance Program. But AIDS activists say the copayment plan is not dead yet.

Senate President John Burton (D-San Francisco) and Senate Minority Leader Jim Brulte (R-Rancho Cucamonga) are meeting behind closed doors to hash out a budget agreement both parties can support. AIDS activists are still worried the copayment plan could emerge in the budget proposal.

"The Senate rejected the plan but everyone knows somehow the Legislature is going to have to take some steps to balance the budget. Everyone feels the Republican plan is still on the table in some ways, including this copayment plan," said Dana Van Gorder, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's director for state and local affairs. "We obviously are in touch with Burton to ask him to make sure the final resolution doesn't include copayments. Stay tuned."

Initially part of Governor Gray Davis's 2003-2004 budget proposal, the state Assembly had voted against implementing copayments under ADAP. But Republicans revised the proposal to charge low-income ADAP clients \$7.2 million in copayments on their medications as part of their latest budget proposal.

The plan would impose copayments of \$30 per prescription per month on individuals earning \$17,960 to \$26,940 per year; \$45 per prescription per month for those earning \$26,940 to \$35,920;

and \$50 per prescription per month for those earning more than \$35,920.

AIDS activists have been fighting the proposal ever since Davis first introduced it. They argue that the high cost of the copayments would force many ADAP clients to stop taking their medications altogether. And if California became the first state to require ADAP copayments, they fear other states would soon follow.

Earlier this week, lobbyists from Project Inform, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, AIDS Project Los Angeles, and SFAF worked the halls of the Statehouse to defeat the measure. The groups also sent out action alerts that warned the gay community, "There is a strong likelihood that the Republican plan will be adopted as the entire Legislature looks for a resolution to the current budget crisis. ADAP copayments may be a part of the final budget unless HIV/AIDS advocates act today."

The alert asked recipients to contact the Democratic members of the Senate Budget Committee—Senators Burton, Wes Chesbro (Arcata), Deborah Ortiz (Sacramento), Byron Sher (Palo Alto), and John Vasconcellos (Santa Clara)—to ensure they would continue to oppose the copayment plan. A budget decision to end the stalemate is not expected for another two weeks, at the earliest.

In the meantime, fights over funding for ADAP are also under way in Washington D.C., where the Republican-controlled Congress has drastically underfunded the ADAP program, argue AIDS activists. The latest House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill includes \$753.3 million for ADAP in 2004, yet ADAP supporters, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) have requested \$994 million. Have requested \$994 million. ▼

ADAP supporters earlier this

month brought former basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who has been HIV-positive since 1991, to D.C. to argue for more funding.

"We have a big problem. The problem will only increase if we don't get the proper funding. There are new medical advancements everyday," Johnson said in a statement. "It's not about the drugs anymore, it is about the access to the drugs."

As Congress begins negotiations on funding for the ADAP programs for fiscal 2004, current funding shortfalls have caused 15 of the 57 ADAP programs to either start a patient waiting list or restrict access to medicines, according to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS directors.

Despite the funding battles, there has been some good news for ADAP directors and clients this summer. Seven companies have agreed to contribute more than \$50 million to assist the ADAP programs as part of NASTAD's ADAP Crisis Task Force.

Pfizer Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline announced last week they would join the program, and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. officials have said they are also close to reaching a deal with the ADAP programs.

"This has been a challenging three months and we are pleased with the outcome," noted NASTAD Executive Director Julie Scofield in a statement. "Our ADAP Crisis Task Force has found a way to partner with all but one of the country's HIV antiretroviral manufacturers. Industry and the states have come together in a life-saving partnership."

States participating in the ADAP Crisis Task Force include California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Texas. Collectively these states represent 75 percent of the national ADAP drug expenditures, but the agreements will apply to all ADAPs. ▼



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AHP's 'Art for AIDS' auction Friday

by Cynthia Laird

An estimated 200 pieces of modern and contemporary art, donated by artists, galleries, and collectors from the greater Bay Area will be available at an auction Friday, July 18 benefiting the University of California San Francisco-affiliated AIDS Health Project.

"Art for AIDS," now in its seventh year, will take place at Bonhams and Butterfields, 220 San

Bruno Avenue in San Francisco. Viewing begins at 5:30 p.m., with a live auction starting at 7. Food and drinks will be available; admission is \$25 per person.

Included in this year's event is an auction of one-of-a-kind dinner plates designed by celebrities, politicians, and other personalities. Contributing galleries include the Artsel Gallery, Collage Gallery, Dennis Rae Fine Art, the Robert Koch Gallery, and the SF-MOMA Artist Gallery.

AHP provides culturally sensitive counseling and education to stop the spread of HIV infection and to help people face the emotional, psychological, and social challenges of living with HIV. The agency provides direct mental health services to people living with HIV, as well as to friends, family members, and partners, according to its Web site.

People can preview the art and bid online at www.artforaids.org. For more information on the event, call (415) 502-7276. ▼

Queer photo contest deadline approaching

by Zak Szymanski

Put that voyeurism and creativity to good use. Following the success of its queer photo salon series, the Harvey Milk Institute, along with curator and photographer Chloe Atkins, is sponsoring the first "Queer Photography Competition & Exhibition," to be held at the LGBT Center from September 17-November 1.

Entries are due Tuesday, July 22 and are eligible for prizes: \$500 for

first prize, \$300 for second prize, and \$200 for third prize. The exhibition will showcase work by queer photographers, with a general theme of celebrating community and identity; artists are encouraged to explore this theme broadly.

Photographers from all around the world are eligible to submit work. All photographic mediums and techniques are welcome.

To enter, send three or more slides in a plastic sleeve, along with an entry fee of \$25 (and \$5 for any

additional slide) to: Queer Photography Competition, c/o Harvey Milk Institute, 1800 Market Street, Suite Q-31, San Francisco, CA 94102. Fees can be paid with U.S. checks or money orders (payable to "Harvey Milk Institute," with "photo contest" in the memo) or credit and ATM cards. Packing materials and postage are also required if work must be returned. More information is available at www.harveymilk.org/Details/691.shtml, or by e-mailing queerphoto@harveymilk.org. ▼

OPEN FORUM

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Drugs can kill

The world lost a brilliant, talented gay man this week with the passing of former *Bay Area Reporter* news editor Mike Salinas. Mike died this week in his New York City home at the age of 46. The cause of death has not been determined and an autopsy is scheduled to be performed.

He had told some friends earlier this year that he was using speed, and as we wait for the results of the autopsy, we can only reflect on his life, and, ultimately, with profound sadness, we are starkly reminded of how drugs can kill. Unfortunately, it appears that Mike joins a long list of other smart, young gay men in the prime of their lives who have succumbed to the ravages of drugs.

In an irony that Mike likely would have appreciated, the story reporting his death on our front page this week coincides with another story on a new wave of guerrilla stickers hitting the Castro that warn of the dangers of speed. One local man is so fed up with the apathy he's observed in the community that he has taken it upon himself to plaster sidewalks with fliers that read "Queer life is fresh! Speed is wack!"

In an editorial just last month, our number one concern in a list of things we feel the community has become complacent about was the rampant use of crystal methamphetamine among gay men. Speed and heroin are two of the most addictive drugs around. Users oftentimes become hooked quickly, doing almost anything for that "next fix."

The reasons for starting on the path to addiction are many, and as varied as people are themselves. We don't know what led Mike to start on this journey into madness, and we may never know; no note was found, and when he was in San Francisco just a few weeks ago, he seemed to us like he always had been: upbeat, retelling stories of recent experiences in New York, and talking of friends and family.

So when the news of his death reached us, we were shocked, angry, and confused. How could this happen? Why did this happen? Friends and colleagues were numbed by the news. We still are.

Help in the form of substance abuse treatment is desperately needed for the LGBT community. Treatment slots for immediate help in such programs need to be established right now. As substance abuse treatment officials noted in our story on the stickers, gays

can't get the help they need to break the cycle of drug addiction if there is a two- or three-month waiting list to get into a program. Due to the nature of drug addiction, those people will likely just keep using, and that golden opportunity to begin helping them when they decide they want to quit will be lost.

More education is needed – again, right now. Former users need to speak out about their experiences. Community forums need to be held. Magnet is a new organization for gay men that just opened in the Castro; it needs to get involved and could be a big help by hosting such meetings. Mostly, we believe that while public health officials could add to the educational component, it is community members themselves, speaking from their own experiences, that could help jolt people into paying attention and seeking treatment if they have a problem. That drugs kill is nothing new, it just keeps reappearing in our community over and over again.

We would be remiss if we did not touch on some of the contributions Mike Salinas made while he served as news editor, from

1992 to 1999. In conjunction with the publisher and production staff, he oversaw a redesign of the paper in 1996. He steadfastly took on controversies like San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen's six-figure salary; and he devoted attention to the reporting of antigay violence in part due to his own experience dealing with the murder many years ago of his lover, Ralph. As an HIV-positive man, he demanded that researchers study anal microbicides as a way to prevent

HIV; and fought until his death for justice in the case of his former partner and close friend, Brian Carmichael, who is facing a yearlong prison sentence in connection with a misdemeanor battery conviction that Mike and others believe was a case of AIDS discrimination. (Carmichael was, his attorneys argue, tested illegally for AIDS after his arrest in the 2001 incident.) Mike also stepped up reporting of transgender issues long before it became standard fare in many LGBT publications.

Mike Salinas's life was far too short. He will be sorely missed. ▼

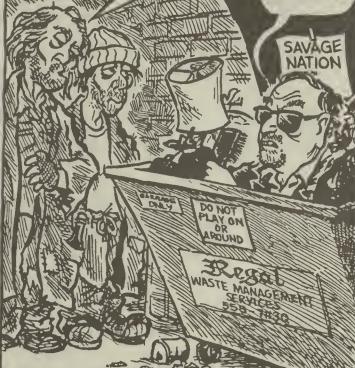
Editorial

ONCE AGAIN, I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING A PRANK CALLER A SODOMITE AND TELLING HIM TO GET AIDS AND DIE. I HAD NO IDEA I WAS STILL ON THE AIR.



THE POOR S.O.B. HAS NO IDEA HE'S NOT ON THE AIR...

DO WE HAVE OUR NEXT CALLER?



Let's keep making history

by Rich Kowalewski and Theresa Sparks

This has been an exciting and historic week for the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club. Alice, founded in 1972, is the oldest LGBT political club in San Francisco and the nation.

On July 14, the members of Alice overwhelmingly endorsed city Treasurer Susan Leal for mayor with nearly 70 percent support.

The endorsement of Susan Leal marks the first time in history that Alice has endorsed an openly gay or lesbian candidate for mayor. The vote to back Leal strengthens Alice's growing reputation as one of the city's most influential, independent, and progressive political organizations.

But more importantly, we believe that Alice's endorsement of Susan Leal marks a key step toward making more history for our City – electing Susan Leal as San Francisco's first openly gay or lesbian mayor. Susan Leal would also be the first Latina mayor of our beloved city.

As the city's largest Democratic club – with over 500 dues-paying members – the Alice B. Toklas endorsement brings real volunteers, real resources, and real votes to its endorsed candidates. Alice provided the winning margins of victory for the close recent elections of Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty and City Attorney Dennis Herrera, among others. Indeed, during the past two years, 26 of 28 candidates endorsed by Alice have been victorious.

But why Susan Leal?

As our current city Treasurer, a former

supervisor who chaired the Finance Committee, and a former businesswoman, Susan Leal has the financial skills, experience, and independence to turn this city around.

As a former businesswoman, Susan Leal helped grow a small health care startup with four employees into a publicly traded company that employs thousands today.

In 1993, Susan Leal became the first Latina to serve on the Board of Supervisors, where she chaired the Finance Committee and balanced the city's \$4 billion budget. On the board, Susan increased funding for HIV/AIDS health services, co-authored San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance, and was an early advocate for transgender rights and health benefits. She was instrumental in expanding Muni service from the Castro to downtown, expanding park facilities, and keeping libraries open.

As our current treasurer, Susan Leal makes money for San Francisco. Under Treasurer Susan Leal, San Francisco's rate of return on investment beats other major counties in the state, meaning millions more for vital services. Susan made San Francisco the first county in California to apply socially responsible screens to the city's investments to ensure they're pro-worker, pro-consumer and pro-environment. And she has reformed and revitalized the treasurer's office, more than tripling delinquent tax collections, and increasing customer satisfaction.

As mayor, Susan Leal will focus on turning our local economy around, creating

jobs, improving our schools and restoring accountability to city government.

On multifaceted, complex issues like homelessness, Susan Leal doesn't stand or overpromise to the voters with quick-fix sound bites. But she's the only candidate who can bring accountability, efficiency, and better management of the \$243 million we currently spend on homelessness to truly move people off the streets and into more productive lives.

We understand that many LGBT voters are supporting Supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor. We respect this choice and applaud our friends at the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club for their support of Tom Ammiano.

And we encourage San Franciscans to ignore the efforts of the political establishment to convince us that the race for mayor is all but over. For the vast majority of voters, this race has only just begun.

We are proud to be working with Ambassador James Hormel, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), and other LGBT leaders such as Elizabeth Birch, David Mixner, Del Martin, and Phyllis Lyon in supporting Susan Leal.

Susan Leal is the candidate who can restore pride in our City. We deserve better, we deserve Susan Leal for mayor. Let's keep making history together this November. ▼

Guest Opinion

Rich Kowalewski and Theresa Sparks are the co-chairs of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

LETTERS

Two who should marry

Given the spate of trials and tribulations besetting them both since going their separate ways some years ago, and in view of their widely recognized and well-proven ability to provide each other both the shrewd political strategies and the ongoing behind-the-scenes emotional nurturance and moral support always so essential for any man's real success in public life, the time has absolutely and most indisputably arrived for Gray Davis and Jerry Brown to get married.

Glenn Rice
Davis, California

V for victory

As a lifelong Democrat, if I never hear the words Little Rock, Lieberman, Gore, or Brazile again, it will be too soon. I'm feeling the same way about the words Clark and general. Words I'm beginning to enjoy hearing: Dean, Howard, Vermont, and victory.

Frederic Millen
San Francisco

One supe thanks others

I want to join the B.A.R. in commanding the excellent work by Supervisor Tom Ammiano ensuring that budget analyst savings restored funds to community-based AIDS, HIV and substance abuse programs in the city budget.

Supervisor Ammiano has shown creativity and initiative identifying possible savings in this very difficult budget year.

I want to especially note the work of Supervisor Chris Daly as chair of the board's budget committee, along with its members; Supervisors Matt Gonzalez, Sophie Maxwell, Aaron Peskin, and Fiona Ma. Working long hours, Chair Daly and his committee members brought \$23 million in savings to go toward vital community-based health, homeless service, and treatment programs.

Virtually every other California county has eliminated health clinics or sharply curtailed hours. The Mayor's Budget Office did an incredible job preventing these types of reductions and because of Supervisors Daly, Ammiano, and others we restored many of the community-based services that are essential to the health of San Francisco.

Bevan Dufty, Member
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Déjà vu

I had a strong sense of déjà vu reading about the firing of Michael Savage by MSNBC ("MSNBC fires Savage," July 10). In March 1995, members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and other organizations staged a demonstration at KSFO as a result of inaccurate remarks about AIDS transmission made by J. Paul Emerson. Savage said he hoped "we would all die of AIDS." The KSFO management demanded that he apologize publicly, which he did with reluctance.

It appears that he learned nothing from that experience, and is still using the identical vitriol when he thinks no one is listening. Perhaps no one should listen to this current apology since its sincerity is questionable.

Robert Shultz
San Francisco

Gavin Getty

Here comes the money. Gavin Newsom has turned his back on the gay community by praising Colin Powell, who spearheaded the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of the Clinton administration. And by standing by while the cops roughed up gay protesters at the LGBT Community Center in February, and at the parade last month. His road to the election? Money. Lots of it. While Gavin rides around in the Getty family jet, he's against the proposed \$8.50 minimum wage. He gets a million dollar loan for his Pacific Heights home from his friend Gordon Getty, while he takes money away from the poor and throws them in shelters with his Proposition N.

When "Gavin Getty" starts running full page ads and commercials on TV that the others can't afford, you'll see that is what distinguishes him from the others. Money. And not policies for all San Franciscans, just policies for the rich, the landlords, and the downtown interests. Mark my words, if Gavin Getty moves into Room 200, one of his first moves will be to put the mechanisms in place to repeal rent control, district elections, and instant runoff voting. And it wouldn't surprise me if he adopted the slogan of Willie Brown, that those making less than \$50,000 a year shouldn't be allowed to live in San Francisco. The gay community should be outraged that he is trying to buy our vote, while scheming against us.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

Duffy delivers for District 8

Kudos to Matthew S. Bajko for his excellent assessment of District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy's first six months in office ("Supervisor Duffy gets Castro issues on the map," July 10). Duffy's campaign slogan was "All about the neighborhood" and he is delivering on that promise.

The Eureka Valley Promotion Association is San Francisco's oldest neighborhood group. For years we have been concerned about the out of control nature of Halloween and are grateful to Duffy for his leadership in addressing this issue. We not only support his ideas in this regard, we are working with him to make this year's Halloween a safe and enjoyable event for residents, visitors, and merchants. Likewise, we are working with him on many aspects of the Castro Renaissance and look forward to the improvements it will bring. Our organization supported Proposition N, Care Not Cash, which passed overwhelmingly in District 8, and we appreciate Duffy's honoring his campaign commitment to do everything he can to make it city policy.

We look forward to working with Duffy on other issues of concern to the Castro neighborhood.

Gustavo Serina, President
Eureka Valley Promotion Association
San Francisco

Center situation could be worse

I write in response to Ernest Krause's July 10 letter ("Cheu's failure at the center") in which, among other things, he calls for Scott Wiener's resignation as co-chair of the LGBT Community Center's board of directors. As a licensed attorney, Mr. Krause should know better. He should know that you don't ask for someone's resignation without knowing all the facts. Those of us who know Scott

Wiener and who know everything that he has done for the center know that, without him, a bad situation would be much, much worse. The sad truth is that, in this economy, many nonprofit organizations, like the center, are suffering. While holding a full time job, Scott has, for no compensation, dedicated countless hours to make sure that the center lives up to its promise to San Francisco's queer community. For that, Scott deserves our gratitude, not a call for his resignation.

David Campos, Esq.
San Francisco

More about the center

I agree with last week's letter writer who criticized the management of the LGBT center. I have been a volunteer there since it first opened and managed the creation of the reading room located on the third floor of the Victorian. It contains an extensive collection of LGBT books and magazines.

Last week's writer was correct in his exclusionary observation about the center; but failed however, in the reasons. It is not based on money or "eliteness."

It has taken assertiveness for this 64-year-old gay man to make a place for himself in the world of youth at the center. The center is there for us to use and create for ourselves.

Regarding coffee: our group, known as Thrive, serves coffee on the first and third Saturday afternoons in the future cafe area. It is designed as a safe space for persons with HIV. It is not run by an agency and is totally created by a handful of positive-minded HIV-positive men determined to make a difference at the center and in our community.

The public is invited to join us for coffee and complementary muffins between 1 and 3 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of the month. It is up to us to make the center what we want it to become. I do not contribute money but I have taken responsibility for the center's success over time.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

Magical nights

Thank you to all who joined in the fun of *The Daddy, the Diva, and the Detective* at the Archbishop's Mansion! Supported and encouraged by a dynamic cast, cheered on by lively audiences, and sponsored by A Different Light, Daddy's, Marlena's, Metro City bar, Mezzanine, Mr. S Leather, Powerhouse, and Ritz Camera, those four Sunday nights in June were magical. Thank you to Jim Skiba of Incentives to Intrigue who conceived of this original presentation and generously donated a portion of the proceeds to the AIDS Emergency Fund, totaling over \$1,000. With a guest list that included Empresses Bella, Marlena, and Suzie Wong, Trauma Flintstone, Josephine Lott, Emperor Steven Rascher, Audrey Joseph, Lu Conrad, and state Attorney General Bill Lockyer, *The Daddy, the Diva, and the Detective* truly evolved into one of those only in San Francisco experiences. Be warned, we aren't finished yet!

Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet
San Francisco

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Plenty of GOP candidates for recall

by Wayne Friday

Now that a recall election on Governor **Gray Davis** appears all but certain, Republicans from Sacramento to Washington, D.C. are finally owning up to what most already knew — that the California Republican Party was behind the recall move from the very start.

True, the party used Representative **Darrell Issa** (R-Vista) as its credit card to finance most of it, but the Republican leadership finally admitted they backed the move and last week the entire organization went public and announced they would be in support of the removal of Davis. State GOP Chairman **George "Duf" Sundheim**, a Palo Alto attorney who took over the state party machinery about six months ago and is a Bush loyalist, was in Washington, D.C. last weekouting the fact that "the California Republican Party is now fully behind the effort to recall Gray Davis."

Sundheim told reporters that his desire now is to try to find a way to keep too many GOP candidates from running for governor in the recall and splitting the vote — a scenario that Sundheim admits could backfire and keep the Democrat Davis in office.

Last week, recall supporters stopped circulating petitions, declaring they have collected 1.3 million signatures statewide, likely more than enough to qualify the necessary 897,158 valid signatures needed to force a recall.

When will it happen? Depending on when the petitions are certified by the secretary of state's office, the election could be held in late October or early November, or made part of the presidential primary ballot next March. On a recall ballot, voters would be asked to vote yes or no on whether to keep Davis in office and would choose from a list of candidates to replace him. If Davis lost, the candidate who got the most votes would immediately become governor. In theory, with enough candidates on the ballot, a candidate with as little as 15 or 20 percent of the vote could become governor.

Many think the Democrats will ultimately be forced to run a candidate if it appears Davis cannot survive the recall election. Most Democrats feel that Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), if she could be persuaded to run, could defeat any of the potential Republican candidates expected to enter the race.

While there have been reports that the White House dislikes the entire recall effort because they believe **George W. Bush** stands a better chance of winning California next year if an unpopular Davis is still in office, Sundheim said that he thinks voter discontent with Democrats could help Bush. Sundheim acknowledged his problem as state chair is trying to persuade some of the Republican candidates to stay out of the race. Issa, the millionaire conservative with a criminal rap sheet as a young man, and a hot-bed right winger, was the man who wrote the check to finance much of the recall. He is the only Republican

so far enter the race as an official announced candidate.

Sundheim, however, told reporters that he expects actor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, state Senator **Tom McClintock** (R-Thousand Oaks), former Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan**, and **Bill Simon**, the 2002 GOP gubernatorial nominee, might enter the race as well.

Davis political operatives are clearly counting on the Republicans not being able to coalesce around a single candidate.

While top Democratic leaders have indicated to date that they all support Davis in the upcoming election, Sundheim said that the question of how to whittle down the Republican list will be decided after party leaders have

a chance to sit down with all the candidates and develop a "viable strategy." Sundheim said it's clear to him that his party cannot treat the recall election as an open field and expect to win.

If none of the potential GOP candidates agrees to step aside in favor of one of the others, we could end up with a ballot that includes Schwarzenegger, an Austrian born actor who appears butt naked in *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, a guy who most say is a "nice guy" with a highly partisan Democratic wife (**Maria Shriver**), but still a muscle-boy actor with no experience in government, no platform, and no known agenda. Or, we could possibly find Issa, or McClintock, another right-winger who lost a race for state controller last year, or, we could see Simon again. Simon, of course, spent \$10 million of his own money last year on a losing race that some say was the worst-run statewide campaign in decades.

Schwarzenegger, Simon, McClintock, or Issa? Damn, Davis is suddenly looking a little better already. I suspect that the state Democratic Party, if they sense the Republicans were to eventually settle on a decent candidate (think Arnold) then the leadership might persuade Davis to take early retirement and put Feinstein on the ballot.

Whatever happens, this state is headed for a political train wreck that it has never before seen. Has anyone even mentioned that we still don't have a budget anywhere near finished? Indeed, reality or not, this entire recall is disastrous for California.

Politics and people

Speaking again of the probable upcoming recall, you've gotta feel sorry for Secretary of State **Kevin Shelley** (D). I've known Shelley since he was a kid, and he's a pretty good guy. A bit of a hothead sometimes (aren't all politicos?) but when recall proponents filed suit against him last week accusing him of misinterpreting the law to undermine their campaign, some were saying that Shelley is in danger of becoming the **Katherine Harris** of the West. In the brass-knuckled brawl for the White House in 2000, Harris, then Florida's secretary of state (and its elections chief) became a target of ridicule and scorn among Democrats and her name became synonymous with partisan mischief.



Secretary of State Kevin Shelley

Shelley, a former San Francisco supervisor and Assembly member, has become the target of protest, conservative talk show outrage, and accusations that he is doing the bidding of fellow Democrats. Shelley might have gained a reputation in the Legislature for having a bit of an explosive temper, but the guy is honest, unafraid of criticism, and one who will do the right thing whether it pleases fellow Democrats or those promoting the recall. Shelley will do what he thinks is right; he's not at all afraid of taking a stand. So, give 'em hell, Kevin.

As the death rate of U.S. soldiers killed by hostile fire in Iraq grew higher last week, President Bush, during comments made at a stop in Botswana, warned that "we're going to have to remain tough." Bush's acknowledgment of the growing security problem in Iraq appeared to be a shift in tone from the boastful comments he made July 2. When asked about Iraqi militants daily killing U.S. soldiers, Bush appeared to be taunting the insurgents by declaring: "Bring 'em on ... we've got plenty tough force there right now to make sure the situation is secure." Damn, that's pretty reassuring stuff coming from the commander-in-chief.

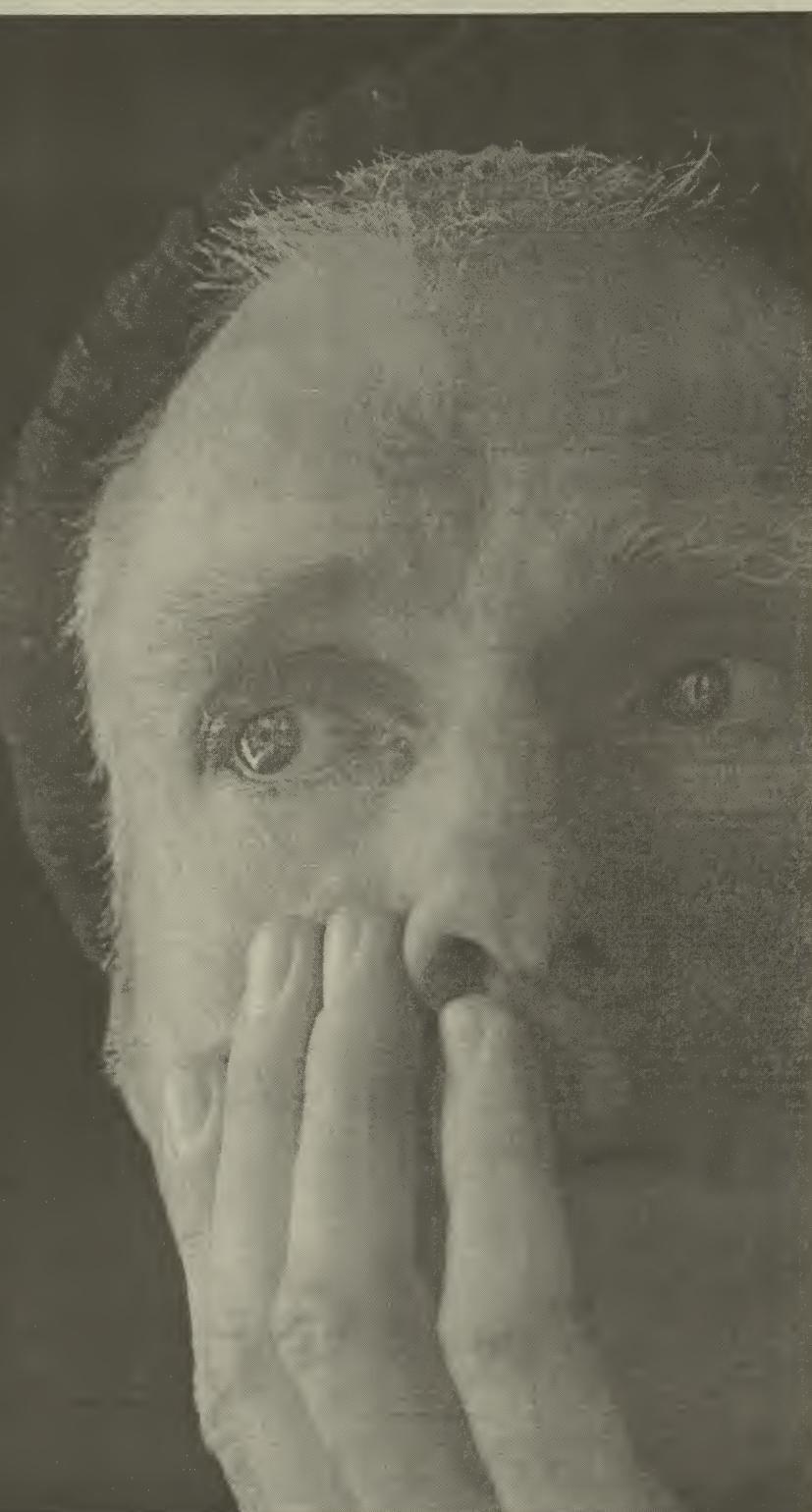
You go Hillary: CNN *Crossfire* co-host **Tucker Carlson**, a pro-Bush conservative, got his just desserts on the air last week served to him by none other than Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-New York). Previously on CNN the handsome, boyish-looking, bow-tied conservative boasted that he'd eat his shoe if the former first lady sold one million copies of her new book, *Living History*. Publisher Simon & Schuster said last Wednesday that it logged the one millionth sale, and later that day Clinton surprised Carlson by strolling on stage with a big cake shaped like a shoe. "You'll notice it's a right-wing wingtip," Clinton said.

Is Delaware Senator **Joseph Biden** about to join retired General **Wesley Clark** and jump in the Democratic race for president? A top Democratic official said this week "it's about 50-50 that he'll get in." A Biden family member said, "it's closer to an 80 percent go" for the Delaware senator.

Others in the know say that Connecticut Senator **Joseph Lieberman** is having "big money problems" and some say that he and/or Missouri Representative **Richard Gephardt** could be the first big names to follow Dennis

page 10 ►

FACIAL WASTING



People always said I had nice eyes and a great smile. Now I look more like a ghost. Sometimes I look in the mirror and don't even recognize myself.

Don't get me wrong, I'm really glad to be alive, but

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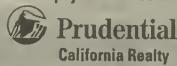
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What is the history of the bisexual movement?

by Liz Highleyman

While people who pursue sexual or romantic relationships with both women and men have existed in all eras and cultures, the contemporary self-identified bisexual movement in the United States dates from the early 1970s.

The first openly bi activists were sexual liberation advocates of the 1960s, including Margo Rila, head of the San Francisco chapter of the Sexual Freedom League, and Maggi Rubenstein, who worked with Daughters of Bilitis co-founder Phyllis Lyon's National Sex Forum, an early sex education organization.

Although many people who had sex with both women and men were active in the early gay liberation movement, fewer identified publicly as bisexual. In 1966 out bisexual Stephen Donaldson (then known as Robert Martin) co-founded Columbia University's Student Homophile League, the first campus gay group. He also helped draft the Quaker Committee of Friends on Bisexuality's "Ithaca Statement on Bisexuality" (published in the *Advocate* in 1972), perhaps the earliest public expression of a new bi consciousness.

"Gay" was originally interpreted as encompassing anyone who had same-sex relationships, exclusively or not. But tensions grew as the gay – and later the gay and lesbian – movement adopted a more identity-based politics. Perceived as being "on the fence," bisexuals were pressured to choose sides and embrace a gay or lesbian identity – or else were told that they didn't exist. "For all the credibility I get, I might as well be calling myself a centaur or a mermaid," wrote Louise Knox in a 1974 article.

Among the first bisexual groups were New York City's National Bisexual Liberation Group (begun in 1972), New York's Bi Forum (founded in 1975), the San Francisco Bisexual Center (opened in 1976), and Chicago's BiWays (formed in 1978). These co-gender groups, which typically included more men than women, tended to focus on social activities and support rather than politics.

But by the early 1980s, political and cultural shifts brought a



Bisexual activist Lani Ka'ahumanu

new generation of bisexual feminists to the fore. Some bi women felt increasingly alienated from lesbian-feminist communities as separation took hold in the late

1970s and the limits of acceptable lesbian sexual practices narrowed.

Among these bi feminists was Lani Ka'ahumanu, a former housewife who in the 1970s had left her marriage, moved to San Francisco, and became a public lesbian activist. After falling in love with a man in 1980, she came out as bisexual, much to the chagrin of her lesbian community. In 1983 Ka'ahumanu helped found BiPol, one of the first of a new wave of explicitly feminist bi groups. That same year a group of feminist bi women (several of whom were "hasbins") founded the Boston Bisexual Women's Network – the oldest bi group still active today.

The bisexual movement came into its own in the late 1980s. In 1987 two Boston women, Lucy Friedland and Liz Nania, distributed a flier asking, "Are We Ready for a National Bisexual Network Yet?" Bi activists from around the country began organizing, and 75 people participated in a bi contingent in the 1987 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights – the first nationwide gathering of bisexuals. In June 1990 the first national bisexual conference took place in San Francisco, drawing more than 450 attendees. That meeting saw the birth of the North American Multicultural Bisexual Network, later renamed BiNet USA.

During these years bisexuality was a contentious issue within the

gay and lesbian community, as exemplified by the 1991 *OurWeek* cover story, "The Bisexual Revolution: Deluded Closet Cases or Vanguards of the Movement?" Many bi organizers devoted their energy to convincing lesbian and gay organizations to add "bisexual" to their names, while others encouraged bisexuals to create bi-specific groups or focus on a broader sex and gender liberation agenda.

But changes were afoot that would lead to greater acceptance of bisexuality. The early 1990s saw the birth of a mixed-gender queer activist movement that emphasized diversity. The same decade also witnessed the popularization of queer theory, which stressed the fluid and socially constructed nature of sexuality and gender. After months of organizing, bi activists succeeded in achieving inclusion in the April 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. By the turn of the 21st century, hundreds of gay and lesbian groups had changed their names or mission statements to include bisexual and transgender people.

Yet shifting notions of sexuality and gender have not appreciably strengthened the bi movement, which remains small and relatively invisible. Beyond seeking inclusion within the gay and lesbian movement, bisexual activists found few bi-specific goals to unite them. Today, many view the very concept of bisexuality as too binary, embracing the view expressed by Louise Knox three decades ago: "Bisexual, homosexual, heterosexual, the terms are, even now, beginning to seem as irrelevant, as archaic, as caste marks. Who needs them?" ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

Suggested reading

Hutchins, Loraine and Lani Ka'ahumanu (eds). 1991. *Bi Any Other Name* (Alyson).

Tucker, Naomi (ed). 1995. *Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries and Visions* (Haworth).

ship?

And if Annemarie Conroy doesn't run against Tony "the Tiger" Hall next year in District 7, I'll be sending a check to David Parker, a longtime community activist and openly gay man who announced last week that he's willing to take on Hall, another politico who apparently doesn't pay attention to "the will of the people" in that Hall says he opposes Care Not Cash though 70 percent of those in his district voted for it. And wait until District 7 voters are reminded that it was "Tiger Tony's" vote that gave Green Party Supervisor Matt Gonzalez the one-vote win over Sophie Maxwell to become board president.

Incidentally, will someone tell Gray Davis to appoint Gonzalez to

page 12 ►



DIARRHEA



It might seem like diarrhea is no biggie. That's probably 'cause you never had it like I have. Try shitting your guts out every day for weeks at a time. How about being terrified to go anywhere because you might crap your pants?

Don't get me wrong, I'm really glad to be alive, but

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Crashing symbols

by Paula Martinac

One of the most striking stories I read in the wake of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* was about the San Francisco gay activists who lowered the Castro District's rainbow flag and raised the Stars and Stripes in its place. One mainstream paper reported the incident as "a gesture of gratitude" on the part of the gay community, but I think that interpretation isn't accurate. To me, it seemed more like a symbolic nod to a mostly symbolic ruling—that is, the Supreme Court's acknowledgment that gay Americans have the same right to liberty and respect for privacy afforded hetero-

symbols. Because of the *Lawrence* decision's symbolic nature, there have been a few gay commentators who've derided it as meaningless and chided our community for being so giddy about the outcome. After all, sodomy laws have rarely been enforced, and most of us have never paid attention to them; and post-*Lawrence*, we still face long, difficult battles in the areas of gay marriage, employment discrimination, and the military. In

Time magazine, writer John Cloud complained that "dignity is not the court's to give," so the decision is simply "condescension cast as liberation."

But the naysayers miss the point of why *Lawrence* rendered many gay people, myself included, teary-eyed and gave us a boost of hope. Symbolic victories are vital to any fight for civil rights, and without them no real progress can be made. Attaining civil rights isn't simply a question of changing a law here and another law there, and presto, we're liberated. If it were that simple, racism would have been obliterated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Some of the biggest hurdles facing gay people are in the courts of public opinion, since many ordinary Americans still attach stigma and shame to homosexuality, feel free to admit their disapproval of it, and often vote for political candidates accordingly.

One of several remarkable things about the *Lawrence* decision was that it addressed the issue of homosexual stigma directly, asserting that when the state crimi-



Christine Smith

nalizes consensual gay sex, it invites discrimination and demeans gay people. And by stating that lesbians and gay men deserve respect for our private lives, the majority justices weren't really talking to us (or bestowing on us the dignity we already possess); they were addressing the rest of America.

Of course, you might conclude, as some gay activists have, that the high court wasn't trying to educate America at all but simply following public opinion, which has evolved in the last two decades to be more accepting of gay people. But in fact, the many Americans who tell pollsters they believe gays and lesbians deserve equal employment rights are probably pretty much like my mother, who wouldn't want anyone denying her lesbian daughter a job, but who still feels pretty squeamish about what she imagines goes on in my bedroom. Now, in effect, the nation's highest court has suggested the radical notion that maybe consensual lesbian and gay sex is not such a big deal.

Whenever governments take positive, symbolic actions like this, whether large or small, it can only help the gay movement. For example, officials who sign Gay Pride Month proclamations—unlike those who refuse to—are actually saying to the public that they reject the shame attached to homosexuality. Local jurisdictions that establish domestic partner registries, even if the lists carry no concrete benefits for those who sign up, are indicating that same-sex relationships are worthy of

some sort of acknowledgment. And even while Bill Clinton's administration produced "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act, it still symbolized a notable degree of gay-friendliness, since the former president made history through such "firsts" as appointing more than 150 openly gay officials and attending a gala gay fundraising event.

If these kinds of symbolic actions didn't carry the weight and power of authority, the religious right wouldn't fuss and fume about them so much. The right knows perfectly well how important symbolism is in politics. The heinous *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision of 1986, with its religious invocation of "millennia of moral teaching," was the ultimate symbol of antigay intolerance, giving right-wingers free reign to launch repeated political attacks on gay people on so-called moral grounds. More recently, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist surely knew the powerful significance of announcing his support of the antigay federal marriage amendment within days after the *Lawrence* decision came down.

Symbolic actions can be for the good or the bad, but either way, they should never be taken too lightly. When they're victories for us, like *Lawrence*, they help create a climate of tolerance in which concrete civil rights gains are gradually able to occur. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Our Man Friday

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the bench? Yeah, I know he's got that Green Party thing, but he's too damned smart for the job he has now.

Meanwhile, a note to those supes at City Hall: the Vancouver, Washington City Council last week voted to ban aggressive panhandling. The law prohibits begging that would make a reasonable person fearful or feel compelled to give. The offense is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Like San Francisco, downtown Vancouver merchants have long complained about transients agitating their customers.

And in Houston, **Jon Buice**, who is serving a 45-year sentence for the slaying of a gay man in 1991, is getting help in his parole bid

from someone who helped send him to prison. **Ray Hill**, a well-known, longtime Houston gay activist, who many of us here have known for years, said he believes that Buice, 29, is a different person from the 17-year-old who fatally stabbed Paul Broussard. It was Hill who helped get the tips that led police to the attacker that eventually led to Buice's conviction.

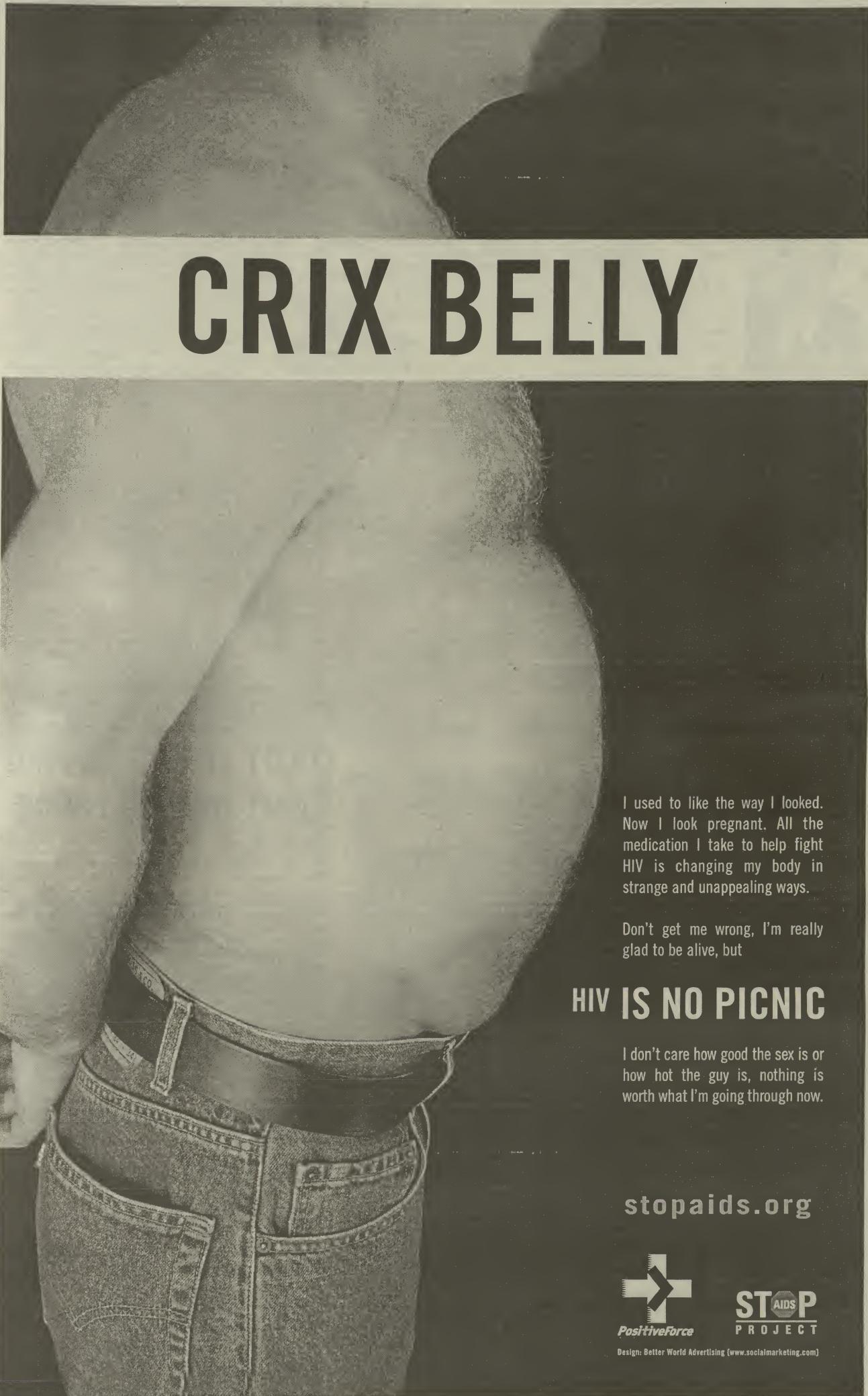
Former President **Gerald Ford** turned 90 on Monday, July 14, making him only the fourth U.S. president to reach 90 years of age. Ford and his wife, **Betty**, 85, live in Palm Springs and Vail, Colorado.

And in case you missed it, George W. Bush turned 57 last week before leaving on that five-day trip to Africa.

"My Quote of the Week" comes from a recent *New York Times* editorial: "Californians have reason to be angry. The state's \$38 billion deficit means higher taxes, lower

public services or both. Recalling Governor Gray Davis, however, is not the answer. It is an unwise move with potentially damaging ramifications. Darrell Issa, a Republican congressman from San Diego County, has contributed over \$1 million to the current recall effort. This, too, should give Californians pause. Allowing wealthy, opportunistic politicians to overturn fair elections when politicians fall out of favor with the public is unhealthy. Moreover, firing Mr. Davis will not solve the budget crisis. The crisis is bipartisan in origin and requires a bipartisan solution. Californians can still avoid a political quagmire by voting to keep the governor they already have – at least until the next general election. Otherwise, a state recovering from an huge deficit will face an even worse form of instability."

And how was your week? ▼



CRIX BELLY

I used to like the way I looked.
Now I look pregnant. All the
medication I take to help fight
HIV is changing my body in
strange and unappealing ways.

Don't get me wrong, I'm really
glad to be alive, but

HIV IS NO PICNIC

I don't care how good the sex is or
how hot the guy is, nothing is
worth what I'm going through now.

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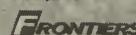
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Fake out

by Jane Warner

400 block of 19th Street, July 12, 2:15 p.m.: A man met another man inside the Edge bar and the two had a beer together. After a while, the two agreed to leave and take a ride. After driving a couple of blocks, the man pulled over and his new acquaintance asked him to step out of the car. Once outside, his casual date gave him a hug and reached into the man's front pocket, pretending to make a sexual advance. Instead, however, the date pulled out \$300 of the man's cash. In an attempt to get his money back, the man punched the pickpocket three times in the face, but the suspect managed to hang onto the loot, and fled northbound on 19th Street. The victim screamed for help, and sleeping neighbors awoke and called 911. Officers soon arrived and searched the area for the suspect — described as African American, 35-40 years old, 6 feet 2 inches, 185 pounds, wearing a black windbreaker and black pants — but could not find him.

Gay rage

Badlands, 4121 18th Street, July 14, 9:48 p.m.: Two men went up to the bar and ordered a couple of drinks. After receiving their drinks the men lingered in the

well area. After a few minutes, the bartender politely asked them to move aside. "Why?" asked one of the men. "Isn't my boyfriend attractive enough to be at your station?" The bartender explained the bar's policy and stated he needed to serve other customers.

The men reluctantly left, only to return a short time later and demand to see the manager. When told the manager wasn't in, one of the men became enraged and tried to provoke the bartender by calling him names. "Do you know the difference between gays and fags?" the man screamed. "You're a fag." Fearing the situation was quickly escalating, the bartender motioned to the doorman to escort the men out. Angry at being asked to leave, one of the men pushed the doorman and the other grabbed the bartender by the arm and jerked him to the floor. A fight ensued, and several patrons intervened and quickly called 911. Officers soon arrived and arrested the suspects, who were found lingering outside. An ambulance was called to the scene and the bartender was transported to a hospital where he was treated for a dislocated shoulder. The suspects, ages 42 and 47, were determined to be intoxicated, taken to Mission Station, and booked for refusing to leave and battery with a serious injury.

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

First challenge to DADT after Supreme Court sodomy ruling

by Bob Roehr

The first legal challenge to the antigay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that uses the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision in which the Supreme Court struck down all remaining state sodomy laws was filed on July 7. It is *Loomis v. USA*.

Lieutenant Colonel Loren Stephen Loomis was just eight days shy of retiring with full pension and benefits when the Army kicked him out for being gay. The highly decorated 20-year veteran had been wounded in Vietnam. The administrative proceedings that led to the discharge were a nightmare of prejudice, discrimination, and violation of basic legal principles, according to Loomis's attorney.

The story began on August 3, 1996 when a troubled private first class at Fort Hood, Texas set fire to Loomis's house off base. He was trying to destroy a video of him engaging in sex with Loomis. The soldier had an ongoing affair with Loomis and had readily agreed to the sex and the taping. He later had second thoughts and feared that the tape might be used against him.

The tape survived the fire and was picked up by the local police during their investigation of the arson. They shared it with military police, who used it to prosecute Loomis under DADT.

The evidence was obtained and forwarded to the military without

Slow getaway

Safeway, 2020 Market Street, July 11, 10:41 p.m.: Police responded to the parking lot of Safeway on a report of a man screaming that someone was after him with a gun. When officers arrived they found the man, who told them he was just forced at gun point to withdraw \$500 from his ATM. The victim told police that the suspect, who had fled the scene, was a friend of his who had been staying at his house for the last week. The victim told police he was also forced to take money out from three other ATM locations before going to Safeway. Police went to the man's apartment where they believed the suspect to be hiding, and knocked on the door. The suspect answered the door and stated, "I didn't do anything." Officers quickly handcuffed the suspect and searched the apartment. Between some videotapes on top of the television was a .22-caliber silver revolver, which was cocked. A search of the suspect's clothing revealed \$420 in his left sock and \$500 in his right sock. The 40-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for armed robbery, kidnapping, and carrying a loaded firearm with a felony conviction. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

a search warrant and without the consent of Loomis. This was despite advice from the district attorney that the police must obtain permission or a warrant and that the tape could not be provided to the military without a subpoena ordering its release.

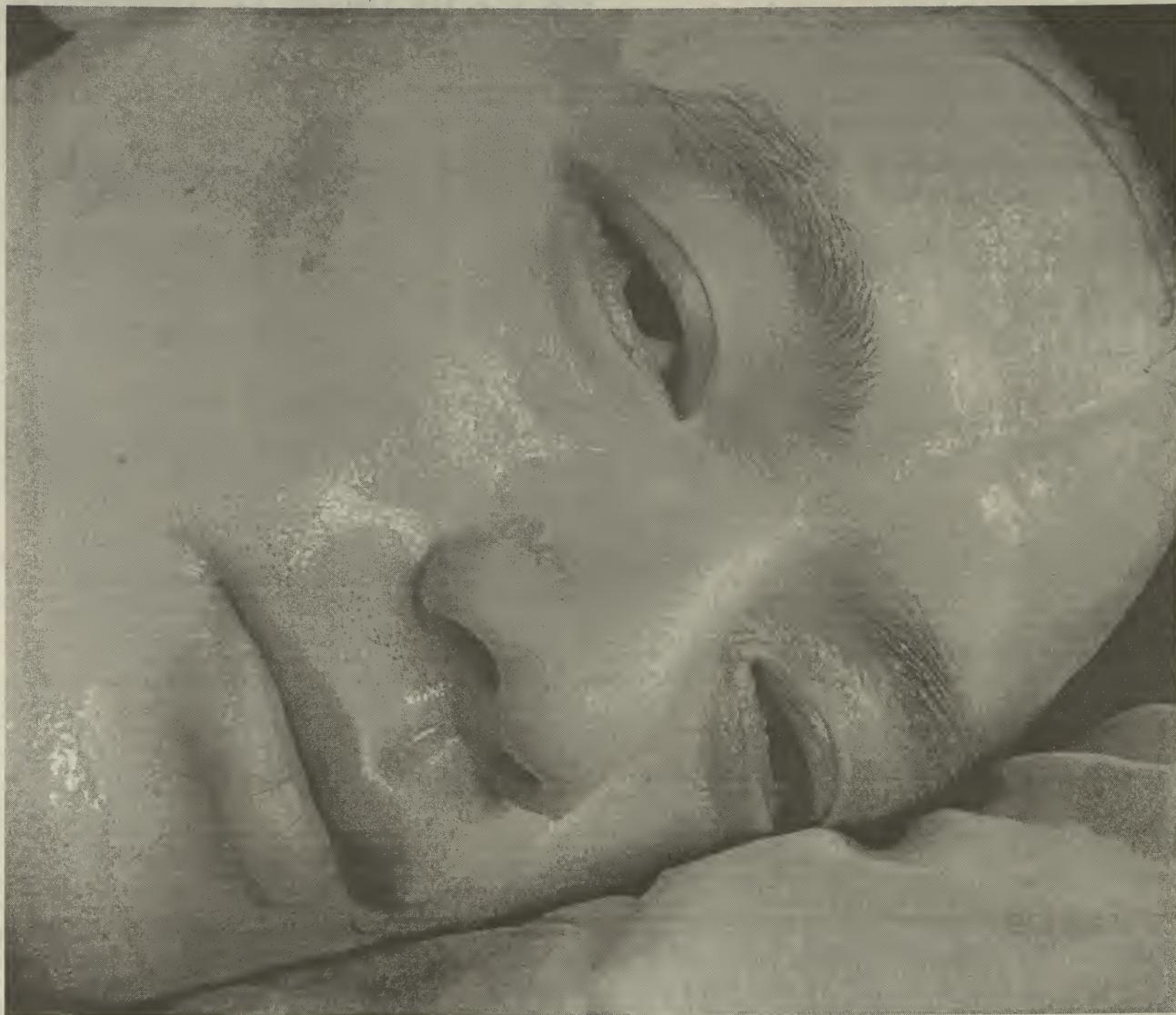
The three colonels constituting the Board of Inquiry all expressed strong antigay feelings when questioned by Loomis's attorney. So it was no surprise when they recommended his discharge under DADT. Internal review by the Army saw nothing wrong with their intense homophobia; it thought the proceedings were fair.

All of Loomis's petitions for early retirement were rejected and he was given a dishonorable discharge on July 14, 1997, just eight days prior to completing 20 years of service. The conditions of his discharge meant the loss of pension and other benefits in excess of a million dollars.

Loomis's lawsuit was filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. just days before the statute of limitations was set to expire. Attorney David Sheldon said they used the *Lawrence* decision to bolster an already strong case.

In addition to citing numerous procedural violations in deciding the case, it also challenges "the 'sodomy' provision of Article 125" of the Universal Code of Military Justice as violating Loomis's "constitutional right to liberty ... to engage in private, consensual acts of

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NIGHT SWEATS

If you don't have HIV, you probably have no idea how bad night sweats can be. I'm not talking about a little sweat. We're talking gallons, enough to soak completely through the mattress. You can't sleep, but you're too tired to get up to change everything. It makes you crazy.

Don't get me wrong, I'm really glad to be alive, but

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HIV IS NO PICNIC

I don't care how good the sex is or how hot the guy is, nothing is worth what I'm going through now.



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Detour to reopen in August; remodel of The Patio space progresses

by Matthew S. Bajko

Long shuttered due to a legal dispute over ownership of the bar, San Francisco's infamous Detour will once again be pouring drinks in a setting its new owner promises will reflect its storied past.

"It is going to be very similar to what it was before. It will be the same kind of bar it was," said Les Natali, owner of Badlands and the Detour's latest proprietor.

The Detour was more than just a divey, dark watering hole. It was a world-renowned cruising spot in the city's gay neighborhood whose bathroom was even more notorious. Natali said he hopes the Detour, which is being renovated, will open next month, a year after the bar closed its doors last August.

"We are getting it ready to open. There is no date yet, we are still finishing up the work," he said. "I hope it will be soon."

Court battle

Natali's ownership of the Detour ends more than a year and a half long dispute between himself and Bar on Castro owner Greg Bronstein. Under an agreement reached between the two last month, Natali bought the bar business and will operate the Detour for the next two years. At that time, the lease on the space will

have expired and both men are expected to wage a renewed battle over securing the location in order to turn the bar into a dance club.

The two bar owners have fought for ownership of the bar at 2348 Market Street since April 2002 when the original owner, Don Minke, at first agreed to sell the place to Bronstein. The dispute over the Detour began when Natali tried to buy Bronstein out, apparently fearful of the competition a new club would mean for the Badlands, which Natali had recently remodeled into a dance bar.

After Bronstein and Natali could not reach an agreement over the sale of the bar, Natali offered to top Bronstein's offer for the Detour and Minke reneged on his deal with Bronstein. That led to Bronstein filing a complaint against both men in San Francisco Municipal Court for intentional interference with contractual relationships.

According to court documents, in November 2001 Bronstein first approached Minke about buying the bar he had operated for the last 21 years and offered \$275,000 for the business. Eventually Minke agreed to sell the Detour to Bronstein for close to \$315,000 in January 2002, Bronstein alleges in his complaint.

The complaint states that on April 8, 2002 Natali offered to buy from Bronstein both the Detour and the adjoining Manasek art



The Detour bar plans to open under new ownership in August.

from purchasing the Detour. The complaint alleged that "Natali's conduct was willful, intentional, deliberate, and malicious" and that Bronstein was entitled to an award of punitive damages.

As the legal maneuvering was taking place, Bronstein successfully acquired the Manasek space in June 2002. During the haggling over both spaces, Bronstein first leased out the space to Supervisor Bevan Duffy to use as his campaign headquarters and later, after Duffy's election in a December runoff, turned the vacant storefront into the Castro Flea Market.

Settlement reached

Seven months later, with a jury trial date in the case set for June 30, Natali and Bronstein reached an out-of-court settlement. On that Monday, Bronstein filed a notice to dismiss the case without prejudice. And Natali proceeded with plans to upgrade the bar's interior space.

Natali declined to comment on the terms of the agreement or how much he had paid for the bar. He is leasing the space from the building's landlord.

"I believe at the present time there is no pending legal action against anybody involved and so that is a good thing," Natali said.

For Bronstein, the loss of the Detour comes on top of another failed attempt to buy a Castro area bar. Through a limited liability company he had formed, Bronstein had wanted to acquire the Transfer at the corner of Church and Market streets. However, that deal fell through earlier this year.

Despite those setbacks, Bronstein remains a dominant player in the Castro bar and restaurant scene.

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2003 GAPA royalty



Mr. GAPA Bobalicious, left, and Miss GAPA Pussy Catwalk reign following the pageantry of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance's "Runway 15" event Saturday, July 12. Nineteen people competed for the titles, and were judged on fantasy presentation, evening wear, and an interview. This year the event at Herbst Theatre was sold out. For more information about GAPA, visit www.gapa.org.

30-50%
of HIV+ men have
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Low sex drive?

Depressed mood?

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Indication: AndroGel is indicated for replacement therapy in males for conditions associated with a deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone, such as primary hypogonadism or hypogonadotropic hypogonadism.



Safety Information:

- Androgens are contraindicated in men with carcinoma of the breast, or known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate.³
- The most frequent adverse events reported by ≥5% of patients associated with the consistent use of AndroGel after 30 months follow-up in a controlled trial (n=93) included lab test abnormal, acne, prostate disorder and application site reaction.⁴

Please see accompanying brief summary of important safety and prescribing information.

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References: 1. Dobs AS. Androgen therapy in AIDS wasting. *Bailliere's Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 1998;12:379-390.
2. Grinspoon S, Corcoran C, Askari H, et al. Effects of androgen administration in men with the AIDS wasting syndrome. *Ann Intern Med*. 1998;129:18-26. 3. AndroGel® Prescribing Information, Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 2002. 4. Wang C, Swerdloff RS, Iranmanesh A, et al. Long-term efficacy and safety of transdermal testosterone gel (AndroGel®) in hypogonadal men. Poster presentation #P-646 at the 84th Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society, June 19-22, 2002, San Francisco, CA.

AndroGel®

(testosterone gel) 1% CIII

"Brief Summary (for full Prescribing Information and Patient Information, refer to package insert.)"

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

AndroGel® is indicated for replacement therapy in males for conditions associated with a deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone:

- Primary hypogonadism (congenital or acquired) – testicular failure due to cryptorchidism, bilateral torsion, orchitis, vanishing testis syndrome, orchiectomy, Klinefelter's syndrome, chemotherapy, or toxic damage from alcohol or heavy metals. These men usually have low serum testosterone levels and gonadotropins (FSH, LH) above the normal range.
 - Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (congenital or acquired) – idiopathic gonadotropin or luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) deficiency or pituitary-hypothalamic injury from tumors, trauma, or radiation. These men have low testosterone serum levels but have gonadotropins in the normal or low range.
- AndroGel® has not been clinically evaluated in males under 18 years of age.

CONTRAINdications

Androgens are contraindicated in men with carcinoma of the breast or known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate. AndroGel® is not indicated for use in women, has not been evaluated in women, and must not be used in women. Pregnant women should avoid skin contact with AndroGel® application sites in men. Testosterone may cause fetal harm. In the event that unwashed or unclothed skin to which AndroGel® has been applied does come in direct contact with the skin of a pregnant woman, the general area of contact on the woman should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. *In vitro* studies show that residual testosterone is removed from the skin surface by washing with soap and water. AndroGel® should not be used in patients with known hypersensitivity to any of its ingredients, including testosterone USP that is chemically synthesized from soy.

WARNINGS

- Prolonged use of high doses of orally active 17-alpha-alkyl androgens (e.g., methyltestosterone) has been associated with serious hepatic adverse effects (peliosis hepatitis, hepatic neoplasms, cholestatic hepatitis, and jaundice). Peliosis hepatitis can be a life-threatening or fatal complication. Long-term therapy with testosterone enanthate, which elevates blood levels for prolonged periods, has produced multiple hepatic adenomas. Testosterone is not known to produce these adverse effects.
- Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma.
- Geriatric patients and other patients with clinical or demographic characteristics that are recognized to be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer should be evaluated for the presence of prostate cancer prior to initiation of testosterone replacement therapy. In men receiving testosterone replacement therapy, surveillance for prostate cancer should be consistent with current practices for eugonalad men (see PRECAUTIONS: Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility and Laboratory Tests).
- Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. In addition to discontinuation of the drug, diuretic therapy may be required.
- Gynecomastia frequently develops and occasionally persists in patients being treated for hypogonadism.
- The treatment of hypogonadal men with testosterone esters may potentiate sleep apnea in some patients, especially those with risk factors such as obesity or chronic lung diseases.
- GELS ARE FLAMMABLE. AVOID FIRE, FLAME OR SMOKING DURING USE.**

PRECAUTIONS

Transfer of testosterone to another person can occur when vigorous skin-to-skin contact is made with the application site (see Clinical Studies). The following precautions are recommended to minimize potential transfer of testosterone from AndroGel®-treated skin to another person:

- Patients should wash their hands immediately with soap and water after application of AndroGel®.
- Patients should cover the application site(s) with clothing after the gel has dried (e.g., a shirt).
- In the event that unwashed or unclothed skin to which AndroGel® has been applied does come in direct contact with the skin of another person, the general area of contact on the other person should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible. *In vitro* studies show that residual testosterone is removed from the skin surface by washing with soap and water. Changes in body hair distribution, significant increase in acne, or other signs of virilization of the female partner should be brought to the attention of a physician.

General

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following:

- Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis.
- Any nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.
- Breathing disturbances, including those associated with sleep.

Information for Patients

Advise patients to carefully read the information brochure that accompanies each carton of 30 AndroGel® single-use packets.

Advise patients of the following:

- AndroGel® should not be applied to the scrotum.
- AndroGel® should be applied once daily to clean dry skin.
- After application of AndroGel®, it is currently unknown for how long showering or swimming should be delayed. For optimal absorption of testosterone, it appears reasonable to wait at least 5-6 hours after application prior to showering or swimming. Nevertheless, showering or swimming after just 1 hour should have a minimal effect on the amount of AndroGel® absorbed if done very infrequently.
- Since gels are flammable, avoid fire, flame or smoking during use.

Laboratory Tests

- Hemoglobin and hematocrit levels should be checked periodically (to detect polycythemia) in patients on long-term androgen therapy.
- Liver function, prostatic specific antigen, cholesterol, and high-density lipoprotein should be checked periodically.
- To ensure proper dosing, serum testosterone concentrations should be measured (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Drug Interactions

Oxyphenbutazone: Concurrent administration of oxyphenbutazone and androgen may result in elevated serum levels of oxyphenbutazone.

Insulin: In diabetic patients, the metabolic effects of androgens may decrease blood glucose and, therefore, insulin requirements. Propranolol: In a published pharmacokinetic study of an injectable testosterone product, administration of testosterone cypionate led to an increased clearance of propranolol in the majority of men tested.

Corticosteroids: The concurrent administration of testosterone with ACTH or corticosteroids may enhance edema formation; thus, these drugs should be administered cautiously, particularly in patients with cardiac or hepatic disease.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions

Androgens may decrease levels of thyroxin-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T4 serum levels and increased resin uptake of T3 and T4. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged, however, and there is no clinical evidence of thyroid dysfunction.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Animal Data: Testosterone has been tested by subcutaneous injection and implantation in mice and rats. In mice, the implant induced cervical-uterine tumors, which metastasized in some cases. There is suggestive evidence that injection of testosterone into some strains of female mice increases their susceptibility to hepatoma.

Testosterone is also known to increase the number of tumors and decrease the degree of differentiation of chemically induced carcinomas of the liver in rats.

Human Data: There are rare reports of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients receiving long-term oral therapy with androgens in high doses. Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hyperplasia and prostatic carcinoma.

Geriatric patients and other patients with clinical or demographic characteristics that are recognized to be associated with an increased risk of prostate cancer should be evaluated for the presence of prostate cancer prior to initiation of testosterone replacement therapy.

In men receiving testosterone replacement therapy, surveillance for prostate cancer should be consistent with current practices for eugonalad men.

Pregnancy Category X (see CONTRAINDICATIONS) – Teratogenic Effects: AndroGel® is not indicated for women and must not be used in women.

Nursing Mothers: AndroGel® is not indicated for women and must not be used in women.

Pediatric Use: Safety and efficacy of AndroGel® in pediatric patients have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

In a controlled clinical study, 154 patients were treated with AndroGel® for up to 6 months (see Clinical Studies). Adverse Events possibly, probably or definitely related to the use of AndroGel® and reported by ≥1% of the patients are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Adverse Events Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related to Use of AndroGel® in the Controlled Clinical Trial

Adverse Event	Dose of AndroGel®		
	5 g	7.5 g	10 g
Acne	1%	3%	8%
Alopecia	1%	0%	1%
Application Site Reaction	5%	3%	4%
Asthenia	0%	3%	1%
Depression	1%	0%	1%
Emotional Liability	0%	3%	3%
Gynecomastia	1%	0%	3%
Headache	4%	3%	0%
Hypertension	3%	0%	3%
Lab Test Abnormal*	6%	5%	3%
Libido Decreased	0%	3%	1%
Nervousness	0%	3%	1%
Pain Breast	1%	3%	1%
Prostate Disorder**	3%	3%	5%
Testis Disorder	3%	0%	0%

* Lab test abnormal occurred in nine patients with one or more of the following events: elevated hemoglobin or hematocrit, hyperlipidemia, elevated triglycerides, hypokalemia, decreased HDL, elevated glucose, elevated creatinine, or elevated total bilirubin.

** Prostate disorders included five patients with enlarged prostate, one patient with BPH, and one patient with elevated PSA results.

The following adverse events possibly related to the use of AndroGel® occurred in fewer than 1% of patients: amnesia, anxiety, discolored hair, dizziness, dry skin, hirsutism, hostility, impaired urination, paresthesia, penis disorder, peripheral edema, sweating, and vasodilation.

In this clinical trial of AndroGel®, skin reactions at the site of application were occasionally reported with AndroGel®, but none was severe enough to require treatment or discontinuation of drug. Six (4%) patients in this trial had adverse events that led to discontinuation of AndroGel®. These events included the following: cerebral hemorrhage, convulsion (neither of which were considered related to AndroGel® administration), depression, sadness, memory loss, elevated prostate specific antigen and hypertension. No AndroGel® patients discontinued due to skin reactions.

In an uncontrolled pharmacokinetic study of 10 patients, two had adverse events associated with AndroGel®, these were asthenia and depression in one patient and increased libido and hyperkinesia in the other. Among 17 patients in foreign clinical studies there was 1 instance each of acne, erythema and benign prostate adenoma associated with a 2.5% testosterone gel formulation applied dermally. One hundred six (106) patients have received AndroGel® for up to 12 months in a long-term follow-up study for patients who completed the controlled clinical trial. The preliminary safety results from this study are consistent with those reported for the controlled clinical trial. Table 2 summarizes those adverse events possibly, probably or definitely related to the use of AndroGel® and reported by at least 1% of the total number of patients during long-term exposure to AndroGel®.

Table 2. Incidence of Adverse Events Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related to the Use of AndroGel® in the Long-Term, Follow-up Study I

Adverse Event	5 g	7.5 g	10 g
Lab Test Abnormal*	4.2%	0.0%	6.3%
Peripheral Edema	1.4%	0.0%	3.1%
Acne	2.8%	0.0%	12.5%
Application Site Reaction	9.7%	10.0%	3.1%
Prostate Disorder**	2.8%	5.0%	18.8%
Urination Impaired	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%

* Lab test abnormal included one patient each with elevated GGT, elevated hematocrit and hemoglobin, increased total bilirubin, worsened hyperlipidemia, decreased HDL, and hypokalemia.

** Prostate disorders included enlarged prostate, elevated PSA results, and in one patient, a new diagnosis of prostate cancer; three patients (one taking 7.5 g daily and two taking 10 g daily) discontinued AndroGel® treatment during the long-term study because of such disorders.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

AndroGel® contains testosterone, a Schedule III controlled substance as defined by the Anabolic Steroids Control Act. Oral ingestion of AndroGel® will not result in clinically significant serum testosterone concentrations due to extensive first-pass metabolism.

OVERDOSE

There is one report of acute overdosage by injection of testosterone enanthate: testosterone levels of up to 11,400 ng/dL were implicated in a cerebrovascular accident.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended starting dose of AndroGel® 1% is 5 g delivering 5 mg of testosterone systemically, applied once daily (preferably in the morning) to clean, dry, intact skin of the shoulders and upper arms and/or abdomen. Upon opening the packet(s), the entire contents should be squeezed into the palm of the hand and immediately applied to the application sites. Alternately, patients may squeeze a portion of the gel from the packet into the palm of the hand and apply to application sites. Repeat until entire contents have been applied. Application sites should be allowed to dry for a few minutes prior to dressing. Hands should be washed with soap and water after AndroGel® has been applied. Do not apply AndroGel® to the genitals.

Serum testosterone levels should be measured approximately 14 days after initiation of therapy to ensure proper dosing. If the serum testosterone concentration is below the normal range, or if the desired clinical response is not achieved, the daily AndroGel® 1% dose may be increased from 5 g to 7.5 g and from 7.5 g to 10 g as instructed by the physician.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SFGH AIDS Ward workers wanted for reunion

by Zak Szymanski

It was the first AIDS ward in the world, and as such, saw first-hand the many faces of and responses to the epidemic.

Twenty years later, the 20-bed unit at San Francisco General Hospital known as Ward 5A — which began as a 12-bed ward on 5B in 1983 — is marking its anniversary and celebrating community with a reunion next weekend.

All former employees and volunteers of the ward are encouraged to attend the activities, which include an exhibit in the hospital lobby beginning Friday, July 25; the unveiling of a plaque in the hospital on Friday at noon; and a 20th anniversary reunion gathering on Saturday, July 26, from 7 p.m. to midnight at the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street.

"We've been able to track down some of the volunteers and maybe half of the nurses," said Steve Keith, one of the original nurses at the ward. But many people, he added, remain at large.

Keith, who has also served as the ward's historian, has been organizing years of collected mate-

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Summer in the park



Dolores Street Community Services hosted its first-ever "Dolores Eats," a celebration of life, food, and art Sunday, July 13 in the park. DSCS Executive Director Bob Nelson told the Bay Area Reporter that more than 1,500 people attended the afternoon event, which included catered food from local restaurants, entertainment, and lots of fun. "We've never done anything this big," Nelson said of the festival, and added plans are already under way for next year's event. "It was a chance to do something positive for the park," Nelson said. DSCS provides shelter for the working poor, and runs a residential facility for people living with AIDS.

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Democratic presidential candidates address gay issues

by Bob Roehr

Seven Democratic candidates for president made their pitch for gay votes at a mid-day forum on Tuesday, July 15 sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and broadcast on C-SPAN. The Reverend Al Sharpton's comments drew perhaps the most enthusiastic applause, while other commitments kept Senators John Edwards (North Carolina) and Bob Graham (Florida) from participating.

HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch opened the gathering by noting "the historic moment... the monumental paradigm shift" taking place in America in which "their gay sons and daughters are worthy of being treated with dignity and as whole human beings."

Turning to the Lawrence decision, she said, "In a profound and most eloquent opinion, the highest court in the land has conclud-

ed that we as a people, but also as families, are worthy of constitutional protection. It has broken a dam of bias and no doubt will usher in a new era of greater fairness and equity as new laws are passed to address so many parts of our lives that remain unaddressed."

Under the format, each candidate was allotted 10 minutes, time for brief opening and closing statements sandwiched around a grilling by the persistent ABC News veteran Sam Donaldson. The candidates spoke in the order in which they accepted HRC's invitation.

This forum is "an extraordinary statement about the journey traveled" by the gay community, said Senator John Kerry (Massachusetts). He claimed "the broadest, strongest, and longest record of support" for community concerns among the candidates running.

It began with his support of

gay Vietnam vets in 1971; he co-sponsored gay civil rights legislation in 1985, "before Ellen DeGeneres, before *Will and Grace*"; he was the only senator up for reelection to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, and "to go to the floor of the United States Senate and say this was gay bashing and beyond the dignity of the Senate."

Kerry also pointed to his work on AIDS, including a proposal made two and a half years ago addressing the epidemic in Africa. His campaign treasurer is an openly gay man.

When Donaldson pressed him on support for civil unions but not same-sex marriage, Kerry said, "It is important to do what we can do," which is achieve access to the benefits of marriage. "I don't believe it is a distinction [between the two words] that makes a difference."

"But if in your mind there is no distinction" pressed Donaldson, then why have two categories?

Kerry said that Americans for cultural and historical reasons view marriage as between men and women.

When pressed on gays in the

military, the Vietnam veteran said he was one of only four senators to testify against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"I thought that every single American ought to be able to serve," Kerry said.

Representative Dennis Kucinich (Ohio) offered a generic record of support on gay issues. He supports gay marriage and pledged that as president he would lead the fight to repeal DOMA and block a constitutional amendment on marriage. He was equally blunt with the military, dismissing views of the generals. "Rebellion in the military!" he huffed, "Oh, I don't see that happening."

"We cannot have states making different rules with respect to basic civil rights," he said, supporting federal intervention on the marriage issue. Kucinich was willing to appoint gays and lesbians to the Supreme Court "as long as they are willing to uphold *Roe v. Wade*" on abortion rights.

"I know I may not look like any president you have seen before," began former Illinois Senator Carol Moseley Braun. She emphasized her 20-year record of support on gay issues at both the state

and federal levels. She wants to "liberate America from the prejudice and fear of which [the right wing] have hijacked our country."

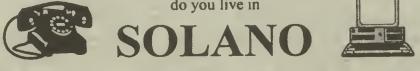
Moseley Braun traced her support for gay marriage back to that of her aunt, who married a white man at a time when interracial marriage was still illegal in many states. "It is constitutionally impermissible to deny a person the right to marry who they want to," but as a practical matter, she said, "states issue marriage licenses" and the matter needs to be resolved at that level.

She called DADT "a mistake, an embarrassment, it should not have happened. The issue is one of conduct." In her closing statement Moseley Braun said, "It is time to take the 'men only' sign off the White House door."

Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont, received probably the most sustained applause upon being introduced. He touted having signed the first same-sex civil unions bill in the nation and speaking in opposition to DOMA when it was proposed. He believes the law is unconstitutional because marriage is not a federal issue, "and I'll do everything in

next page ►

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Pride shamed

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Tuesday, July 15, however, Pride's webmaster seemed to blame the site's redirect on outside hackers, telling Witherington, "Apparently someone gained unauthorized access to the password of the gayshame.com webmaster account and placed a redirect that pointed to the hideous Fred Phelps site. I have changed the webmaster password, and removed the redirect."

Witherington then released a statement of his own, which read, "Ironically, when SF Pride first acquired the domain names it did so to prevent someone like Phelps or some other right-wing fundamentalist from doing so. At the time Gay Shame had their url – gayshame.org – and so, apparently, had no interest in these domains. I discussed the matter with our then-board president and as a result asked our Web people to acquire the domains and just sit on them, figuring that some day it would be important. That was over a year ago. SF Pride has done nothing with the domains since acquiring them. Now that SF Pride has a dialogue with Gay

Shame, SF Pride is happy to transfer ownership of those domains to Gay Shame."

Members of Gay Shame don't necessarily believe that Pride's purchases of Web addresses with their organization's name was for their benefit; after all, they were not told about the purchase, and competing businesses often snatch up domains that resemble sites of their rivals.

Gay Shame is named in an ironic, tongue-in-cheek style to protest the corporatization of LGBT-related events, including the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade.

"I can only imagine they did so to keep us from registering them," said spokesman Mary Oliver, who added that he was "relieved in part to find that the Pride Committee – and not Fred Phelps – had registered the names." (All Gay Shame members use the name "Mary".)

Oliver also said that he has been impressed with some of Pride's recent progressive positions, including defending the right of Gay Shame to demonstrate – against Supervisor and mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom – at this year's Pride Parade.

"Pride is recognizing the broader mission of Gay Shame, and realizing that there are many

places where our values actually are shared," said Oliver.

Gay Shame makes links between poverty, racism, and other oppressions to gay rights, and often stages demonstrations against organizations and politicians who align themselves with the gay community without taking progressive, inclusive stands.

After one such demonstration – the now infamous protest at the LGBT Community Center in February against Newsom – Newsom's ally, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, told the *San Francisco Examiner* that upon seeing Gay Shamers at the center he thought he was "in a parallel universe ... watching a Fred Phelps demonstration."

While Dufty's comment was likely a humorous play on the group's name and the fact that its members were picketing gay people, Gay Shamers took offense to the linkage.

So when they found that their group's name had been linked to the Phelps site, "it was just too much of a coincidence," said Oliver. "We didn't know what to think."

It is not yet known who gained access to the domain names or when and how the addresses were manipulated. ▼

Proposition S

◀ page 4

mayoral candidates Angela Alioto, Susan Leal, and Tony Riveria have also indicated they will attend. Forum organizers also invited mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom, but had not confirmed his presence at press time.

Representatives from the city attorney's office and the Department of Public Health are also expected to be at the meeting.

Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there are difficult issues for the city to ponder.

"There are difficult decisions to be considered," Leno said. "There's a real risk for local elect-

eds in considering whether the city should create its own system."

Other questions revolve around whether the city should take up the task directly or contract with nonprofits.

"What I intended with Proposition S was just that – looking at all facets of the proposal," Leno added.

At press time, Leno was uncertain he would be able to attend the forum, due to the state's budget crisis. But regardless, he said the session will be a starting point to look at the issue of the city becoming involved in medical marijuana.

Leno has long been an advocate of medical marijuana. He also worked to develop the identifica-

tion card program currently in use by the health department, whereby residents can sign up and receive a photo ID card. The card makes it easier for patients to show law enforcement officers that they qualify as medical marijuana users under Proposition 215.

Leno said that to date, close to 7,000 San Franciscans have signed up for the voluntary ID card program.

"We know there is now a minimum of 7,000 people in the city who depend on this medication," Leno said.

Tuesday's forum is open to the public. It will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pres. candidates

◀ previous page

my power to repeal it."

Donaldson pressed Dean on whether he thought that the marriages of gay couples in Canada ought to be recognized in the U.S. "The federal government cannot tell a state that they have to have marriage or civil unions, but ... those citizens are entitled to the same rights," even if they are called something different.



Howard Dean

and he "absolutely" would include gays and lesbians among his nominations. "My administration will reflect the full face of America, the rainbow."

"Many people observe the struggle [for human rights], I have been a participant in the struggle," said Sharpton. To him, the inference of the question on gay marriage "is that gays and lesbians are not human beings that can make decisions like any other human being. We must stop this separation of gays and lesbians from other Americans. ... Even with those that are liberal on the issue, there is an understanding that there is something that is different and less than human about you."

"If people respect you, it is not about gays and lesbians having the right to marry, it is about human beings having the right to marry who they choose," Sharpton said. "It's like saying, we give black, or whites, or Latinos the right to shack up but not marry." The audience roared their approval.

Sharpton called it "a human rights question" that "church leaders ought to lead." He would "use the bully pulpit" of the White House to help change the political atmosphere. He asked the question, "Do you support the Latino right to vote, or do you support everyone's right to vote? You must change the language of the debate."

"Women didn't get the right to vote by osmosis. Black people didn't get the right to vote by internal lobbying in Washington," he said. Sharpton praised activists as "the reason we are where we are now."

Donaldson asked how he would end discrimination in the military. Sharpton said, by putting people in authority to carry out the will of the president. "Anyone guilty of discrimination ought to be fired. They are violating the law."

"This election is [about] where we are going as a party," said Sharpton. He took on the notion

that he can't win by pointing out that eight of the primary candidates are going to lose. He urged them to turn the party around and "stop imitating Republicans."

Representative Richard Gephardt (Missouri) was given the unenviable task of following Sharpton. His approach was a folksy schmoozing of the host HRC; a recitation of his support for pro-gay legislation in the face of "a hostile Republican Party;" and a story of his daughter Christy, who recently came out as a lesbian. Gephardt justified his support of civil unions as "something that can be accomplished;" he does not support marriage.

And what about gay couples who marry in Canada, should those marriages be recognized? "I suppose it should be a policy of reciprocity," said Gephardt.

He closed by speaking on job creation, tax cuts, and "the moral issue" of health care for every American. He used the example of a person with HIV who does not have health insurance.

Bob Witeck, a communications consultant who is heavily involved in Democratic politics, thought the forum was great. His one reservation is that the format, where the speakers came and went on their own, did not offer much of an opportunity for the candidates to listen to and learn from each other or the audience.

Political director Winnie Stachelberg said that HRC "may or may not" endorse a candidate in the Democratic primary, "but certainly not before early next year." The endorsement process is that the staff evaluates candidates' positions and viability and makes a recommendation to the board of directors, which makes any formal endorsement. ▼

The Web cast of the forum is available at:
www.hrc.org/speakingsofequity/webcast.asp

"Why is the word [marriage] a hang up?" asked Donaldson. Dean tied marriage to religion, even when Donaldson used the example of marriage licenses issued by justices of the peace.

Senator Joe Lieberman (Connecticut) virtually ignored gay issues in his opening statement. When Donaldson pressed him on support of marriage or civil unions, Lieberman said he would "leave the question to the states." He defended marriage's "special status in our culture, or society, or history." He is working at the federal level "to protect [gays] from unfair treatment" by "reviewing one by one" the laws and regulations affecting the 1,000-plus benefits associated with marriage.

Lieberman opposed DADT.

Savage salvages radio career

by Ed Walsh

Our radio stations that suspended Michael Savage's show have resumed broadcasting the program after getting reassurances from the conservative host's syndicator.

MSNBC canceled Savage's TV talk show last week after he told a crank caller that he should "get AIDS and die." In the firestorm of controversy that followed, WRKO radio in Boston and three other radio stations owned by the Christian broadcasting company, Salem Communications Corporation, suspended the show for one day.

WRKO's program director, Mike Elder, told the Bay Area Reporter that he decided to put Savage's show back on the air after discussing the matter with Savage's syndicator, Talk Radio Network.

"I left the discussion with the ball left in Savage's court," Elder said. "He holds the continuation on WRKO in his hands, but that kind of tone, temperament, and offensive language will not be tolerated on WRKO."

Said Salem spokeswoman Amanda Strong-Larson: "We talked with Savage's people and got assurances that this was an temperate outburst and not something that would happen again. We reserve the right to take him or anyone off the air if they violate the standards of our company, but because we respect his views on a number of subjects, we accept his

promise that he will avoid this sort of thing in the future. So, in light of this, he is again being broadcast on our stations in Los Angeles [KRLA], Minneapolis [WWTC], and Denver [KNUS]."

Since MSNBC fired Savage, callers have flooded his radio program with support and criticism of MSNBC for axing the *Savage Nation* TV talk show. Michael Harrison, the publisher and editor of the trade publication *Talkers* magazine, told the *B.A.R.* that he didn't think the controversy would affect Savage's radio career "other than to contribute to his growing level of celebrity."

Harrison estimates Savage has a weekly radio listenership of 6.5 million and has the fourth most popular show after Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Dr. Laura Schlessinger and Howard Stern, who are tied for third place. Savage's show is heard over about 320 radio stations.

Crank caller speaks

Meanwhile, the man who made the prank call is revealing what he told Savage. Only part of his statement was broadcast, but Savage said he heard all of it in his ear piece and was angrily reacting to it when he told the caller that he should "get AIDS and die."

Bob Foster, a Sacramento resident who goes by the handle "East Coast Bob," said he told Savage: "I need to suggest that DON and MIKE take your show so you can go to the dentist because your

teeth are real bad."

Foster was referring to Don Gerimino and Mike O'Meara, hosts of a syndicated radio talk show.

Foster has gotten a huge response to his MSNBC prank through e-mails people have sent to his EastCoastBob.com Web site. He said the e-mails are "about 20 positive."

Foster's site boasts of a number of hoaxes he's pulled on local and national shows. The site includes clips of him faking his reaction to an earthquake on Fox News. But Foster told the *B.A.R.* that he's never got more reaction than from the Savage hoax.

The prankster added that he doesn't buy Savage's explanation that he thought his outburst would be cut off the air and he doesn't believe Savage's apology was genuine.

"He was sorry it got over the air, not sorry for what he said," Foster said.

Foster called in after Savage asked for viewers to respond with airline horror stories. After launching into a seemingly legitimate story about someone smoking in a plane's lavatory, Foster then slipped in the line about Savage's teeth.

Savage shot back asking Foster if he is a Sodomite. Foster answered that he was and Savage responded that Foster should "get AIDS and die."

For the record, Foster said he's not gay. ▼

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Stickerers

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hood bring a warm feeling to me. I did a fair amount of running around in the night putting up posters in the middle of the night," recalled Lars Holland, 38, of when he was a member of Boys With Arms Akimbo, an artist collective in San Francisco in the 1980s.

Holland, now the program coordinator at Stop AIDS Project's Positive Force, said he has been struck by the reemergence of messages being posted late at night in recent months.

"I honestly think there are a few individuals in San Francisco right now who are fed up. They are really sucking it to the community in a really in-your-face kind of way," said Holland. "It is making people stand up and take notice. Yeah, it is not legal, but you know at least somebody is taking a stand on something."

The most prominent of these new guerrilla stickers are the orange speed ones. Since Monday, July 7 the stickers have been cropping up all over town and sparking discussion, not only among the staff at substance abuse and HIV prevention agencies but the community at large, about how speed is decimating the gay community. And they have people asking who is responsible for the stickers.

"I have no idea who is doing it. I ran into it a few days ago and I thought, 'This is amazing!'" said Michael Siever, director of the Stonewall Project, an agency that deals with gay men who have speed addictions. "As someone who is a fan of guerrilla art, I think it is great. But I am sure the city doesn't think the same."

Siever said the stickers came up during his weekly Friday staff meeting. His agency is behind the Web site Tweaker.org, which presents information about crystal and its effects in a neutral way.

"Whoever this is has done it – professional is not the right word – did a good job with the graphic and slamming it down on the sidewalk in a way it isn't going to get ripped off," said Siever. "To me it is an indication that this is a significant enough issue that some people feel pretty strongly about it and what it is doing to our community and individuals. Most of us have known someone who has fallen off the ledge of their life because of this drug. So many people have lost their jobs and houses and their health because of crystal."

According to Mary Oliver, a spokesman for Gay Shame (All Gay Shame members use the name 'Mary'), although his group does not sticker, he said circumventing the more traditional corporate methods of presenting messages, such as advertisements, can only help to foster the kinds of meaningful community ties and inter-generational connections and diverse support networks that are necessary for a healthy community and one's needs to be met.

As for the speed stickers, Oliver said he thinks the stickers "are fantastic, actually. The reality is crystal meth use is a new and terrifying epidemic among queers in San Francisco and around the United States."

While the group has yet to take a stand on speed use in the community, Oliver said it is an issue of great concern to the members of Gay Shame. "It's not that tweak use is wrong in and of itself, just that when it becomes totally endemic to a community, and other



Guerrilla sticker covers ACT UP/San Francisco's "Don't Buy the HIV Lie" at 15th and Market streets.
Rick Gerhardt

kinds of connections that need to be formed in the community are not necessarily being formed, it becomes a problem," said Oliver. "I would never blame any individual person for being a tweaker or using meth, and I can't ever imagine taking any other position than it should be legalized."

"Gay Shame is trying to support a certain set of values without being moralizing about it being right or wrong," though Oliver added, "I don't think you can be a conscious young person in queer San Francisco and not be concerned about meth use."

Man behind stickers

The man behind the stickers said he decided to post them around town because he was fed up with not only what he sees as a scourge on the gay community, but a sense of apathy toward the problem.

"The community has gotten lost on speed. The stickers are a way for the community to really

find its way back to what it could be," said the man, who asked that his name be withheld and instead to be identified as Dorothy Applegate, a San Francisco resident known for her letters in the city's daily papers. "This community looks away at all kinds of problems. At the end of the day it doesn't make a difference if nobody is going to do anything. I said I am going to do this. I am tired of sitting around waiting for the other person to do something."

Applegate, who appropriated the name when he performed in a drag show for the Stop AIDS Project, said he decided to create the stickers after he attended the screening and discussion of *The Gift* during the gay and lesbian film festival last month. As the panel was setting up to speak about the documentary, which deals with men who actively sought out being infected with HIV, AIDS activist Hank Wilson admonished the filmmaker for not including speed use in the movie and challenged the audience to tackle the issue.

That, said Applegate, was the final prod he needed to finally post the stickers.

"I have been wanting to do this for years. The question is why did I finally get to doing it now. Well, I am sick and tired that the community doesn't want to talk about it," said Applegate, a 45-year-old Castro resident.

An acquaintance of Haring's when the two men attended the School for the Visual Arts in Manhattan, Applegate recalled an album cover Haring had done for the rap artist BIPO. The cover is a smaller version of a drawing Haring had painted on a wall in East Harlem that said "Life is Fresh! Crack is Whack!"

The artwork stems from the crack epidemic that swept through New York's black community during the 1980s. Partly to escape that epidemic, Applegate said he left the city to come to San Francisco in 1988, where he enrolled in the UC Extension and earned a certificate in substance and alcohol abuse. He said that old rap album cover is still relevant today.

"Personally, I find people who have lives that have been destroyed by speed. At some point it becomes a disharmony in the community," he said. "It affects all of us even though we think it doesn't."

Wilson, a member of Survive AIDS and an employee at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, said for too many gay men speed has become a rite of passage they go through when they first come to San Francisco.

"That is a challenge for us in the community. I think we have two parallel epidemics right now: the HIV epidemic and the speed epidemic. The one happens to be fueling the other," said Wilson. "I see talented people get really fucked up on speed. The thing we have to do as a community is constantly give people feedback and give people support. That means we need to keep our programs funded, such as the Stonewall Project and New Leaf and cut down on their waiting lists."

Speed issue

Speed use among gay men has been a problem for more than a decade, but only recently has the issue gained steam among political and health leaders. In May Supervisor Bevan Dufty convened a community meeting about speed and its impact on the gay community. At the same time, health officials began asserting that speed use was attributable for the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men. According to the health

department, 20 percent of the gay and bisexual men coming in for HIV testing report crystal use.

"The figures range from 12.5 to 20 percent in every study I have seen lately and that is a lot of folks reporting using speed," said Steven Tierney, the city's HIV prevention director.

As the speed stickers began appearing, city leaders hashed out an agreement to add \$1 million to the health department's budget specifically for HIV and AIDS programs. Working with the health department, Dufty prioritized \$300,000 of those funds be targeted to the speed epidemic.

Dufty praised the message behind the speed stickers but said he couldn't fully endorse the method used since the stickers are defacing public property.

"I am in a quandary. When I saw them I said, 'Hooray' and was glad to see other people are taking on my challenge to speak up against crystal meth. But then I kind of winced," he said. "It is indicative of some of the 'HIV is a Lie' campaign which is defacing public property. I am having a tough time being consistent on this one."

The supervisor said he invites the people behind the stickers to contact his office in order to work together in addressing the speed problem and, perhaps, come up with a way to deliver the message in a lawful manner.

"I guess I would like to say I hope there are ways we can put this message out that doesn't encourage defacing our streets or public property," said Dufty. "But I will admit to you I was excited to see them and having people coming up to me and saying being queer is great and it doesn't mean you have to use crystal."

On Monday, July 14, Dufty and Tierney held a meeting between executives from New Leaf, AIDS Health Project, Stonewall, and Magnet to determine how best to utilize the new city funds being diverted to address the crystal epidemic. The city intends to take a two-pronged approach, said Tierney.

"The agencies that provide services now have a two-month waiting list for people to get services. Obviously for people who are addicted to speed, a two-month waiting list is really ineffective," he said. "For someone on speed to be put on a waiting list for two months and keep track of it is counter to their speed addiction. A person on speed has trouble remembering things the next morning, much less two months later."

In order to reduce the waiting time to receive treatment, Tierney said part of the money will go to increase the clinical capacity of New Leaf, Stonewall, and the AIDS Health Project.

"We are still turning people away," said New Leaf Executive Director Joseph Neisen. "Last year our contract with Community Substance Abuse Services over-produced for our units that deals with crystal meth. That is an indication the need is there for more funding for treatment slots."

In addition to bolstering treatment efforts, Tierney said the city intends to revive a social marketing campaign that will address speed use in the gay community. The last time such a campaign was waged was the Stop AIDS Project's "Crissy" campaign from several years ago.

"A lot of folks, those in their 20s, who are using speed aren't getting any messages about taking care of themselves and to think of the long-term impact of using speed," said Tierney. "So the second piece will be an education campaign like Tweaker.org plus more like it. The challenge pre-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Viacom shelves gay channel, for now

by Zak Szymanski

The country's economic downturn and worries over initial investments caused Viacom's Showtime Networks Inc., to announce last week that its plans to launch a gay-specific cable channel are on hold indefinitely.

The project, called *Outlet*, was to be the first American channel to feature 24 hours of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender programming, and had intended to be representative of the entire spectrum of the community, according to spokespersons. It was supposed to be introduced this year.

But the economic climate fell short when it came to convincing cable carriers that the channel would pay off, according to Scott Seomin, entertainment media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"It's not about Showtime not having the money," said Seomin. "It's about the cable operators who have to carry the channel. They just don't have the marketing tools to get more subscribers on their systems."

GLAAD will continue to work with Viacom's Showtime, said Seomin, in order to ensure that the channel eventually hits air-



The cast of Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*

waves.

"Showtime has told us that economically, it's not feasible at this time, in 2003, to launch another major network," said Seomin. "That doesn't mean they have abandoned the plans completely, and we hope this country will recover economically to see the channel come to fruition."

"We also want it done right. We wouldn't want a gay and lesbian channel to launch and fail; that would make the next media conglomerate very hesitant to do their own launch of a gay and lesbian network."

Word of a potential gay channel involving a partnership of

Showtime and MTV was first leaked at the beginning of 2002, with Showtime confirming the news that January.

Since then, updates have included excited, detailed reports of marketing strategies and programming ideas, with network officials telling an audience at last year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival that the channel was in development and slated to be subscription and advertiser-based, with a \$6-\$8 fee per month for viewers.

Also last summer, Viacom produced a short film about marketing to the gay community; was touting the success of its gay programming, like *Queer as Folk* and *Tales of the City* series; and had launched a dedicated block of weekly programming for the gay market. The idea was to show cable carriers, through the gay programs' high ratings, that distributing a gay channel would make good business sense.

But apparently those marketing efforts did not pay off, at least for the time being.

In the meantime, the Bravo cable network launched its new reality show, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* Tuesday night. A gay-themed reality dating show, *Boy Meets Boy* debuts on Bravo on July 29.

At a media conference last week, Showtime CEO Matt Blank told reporters that Outlook continues to be "something we'd like to do, and who knows what the future holds, but right now we're not going ahead."

DADT

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oral and anal sex with persons of the same gender," as outlined in the *Lawrence* decision.

And it charges that DADT violates both the right to privacy and equal protection by "maintaining a special classification system that mandates discharge for homosexual and bisexual individuals, but not for heterosexual individuals who engage in the same or similar acts."

The suit seeks to have these provisions ruled unconstitutional, reverse the dishonorable discharge, restore full retirement benefits, and pay legal fees.

The case has been assigned to Judge Eric Bruggink. The right wing Reverend Rob Schenck, prominent in a widely distributed photo of those lamenting the *Lawrence* decision in front of the Supreme Court last month, has described Bruggink as "one of the few outspoken Christians in the federal judiciary" and a guest at a 2001 breakfast meeting. At that meeting, Bruggink reportedly raised alarm about a judiciary separated from any notion of a high moral authority than itself.

Sheldon Loomis's attorney, believes that the procedural errors were so grave that the court could rule for his client on those grounds alone. He acknowledged, however, that courts generally prefer to rule on more limited and factual matters rather than on sweeping constitutional grounds. It is also possible that the court will not even consider the issues raised in the *Lawrence* ruling in deciding the case.

"All too often, the Army denies those who have sacrificed in its service the basic protection of law," Loomis said in a statement released from his home in New Mexico. "If the military will pursue a decorated officer and combat veteran such as myself, one can only imagine the hurdles faced by young service men and women who find themselves in the Catch-22 of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

"Under DADT, the federal government regularly intrudes in the most personal aspects of our lives. That is wrong and it is time for the government to change," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. SLDN represented Loomis during the initial discharge proceedings.

Osburn applauded the Loomis suit as the first of many that are likely to be filed using the *Lawrence* decision.

Longtime gay activist Frank Kameny, who has worked on the military issue for decades, said, "To the extent possible we should try to get the *Lawrence* decision firmly extended to Article 125 of the UCMJ — our sole remaining sodomy law if, in fact, it is considered to be still actually remaining — and get that struck down for consensual acts." Once that happens, "we will be in a far stronger position for tackling DADT and the general military gay ban."

Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) introduced a bill on July 9 to amend the UCMJ to allow for consensual sexual activity between adults. He called it the "Anti-Hypocrisy Act of 2003" (H.R. 2676).

It is more limited than UCMJ reform suggested in June 2001 by the Cox Commission, a blue ribbon panel of experts in military law. That group recommended repealing the rape and sodomy provisions, replacing them with language such as that found in the Model Penal Code.

Ironically, gays and lesbians seldom are prosecuted under this provision because it is more difficult to prove sexual acts than it is to show sexual orientation under DADT as it is currently enforced. Some 90 percent of gay discharges are through administrative procedures rather than court-martials under the UCMJ.

But continued existence of the prohibition served to underpin a multitude of discrimination against gays in the military just as it did within the civilian context prior to the *Lawrence* decision. ▼

The news does not disappoint those in the LGBT community who were lukewarm about the idea of a gay channel; many expressed concerns that the channel could never capture the diversity of the community or find enough quality programming.

Still, GLAAD has vowed to support any fair and inclusive LGBT channel that comes along, according to Seomin.

"We need a gay channel. The whole idea of cable television is to serve niche markets and underserved communities," he said.

"There are channels for women, channels for people who love to cook, sports channels, and channels for people who love to watch movies. We are absolutely the most underserved in cable television as a community."

The first LGBT channel ever to launch is Canada's PrideVision, which offers programs such as *Prisoner: Cell Block H*, and *Queer as Folk*. PrideVision's efforts to launch in the United States — which were in competition with Viacom's plans — have thus far been unsuccessful as well. ▼

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Gay debt relief seminar on Wednesday

by Zak Szymanski

Bankruptcy, exorbitant credit card debt, and living beyond one's means are just a few of the side effects of San Francisco's dot-com bust, which affected many business sectors and public funding, particularly nonprofits and healthcare related services.

The bust and its aftermath led Terry Gill – executive director of the LGBT oriented financial service organization, A New Goal – to realize that the LGBT community in particular would be hard hit by economic woes.

A New Goal is offering a do-it-yourself credit repair seminar on Wednesday, July 23, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco. The seminar promises to help participants "settle debts for pennies on the dollar, stop harassing phone calls, and improve your credit rating."

The cost of the seminar is \$45, but Gill is offering a \$10 discount to Bay Area Reporter readers. The registration deadline is Sunday, July 20.

Acknowledging that the fee may be difficult for people with financial difficulties to pay, Gill pointed out that most credit counseling organizations will charge upwards of \$100 to get started, while this workshop will help to eliminate those middlemen by empowering individuals with the skills to lower their interest rates and reestablish their credit.

"This will teach people how to do it themselves," said Gill, himself a dot-com burnout with 10 years of experience developing products for credit card companies. "There are simple things people can do that they often don't even think about."

The seminar will take a look at various options – including bankruptcy protection, credit counseling, and taking advantage of free or low-cost services for credit repair. How to recognize gimmicks will also be discussed, as will various options for people with HIV – although Gill emphasized that issues for people on disability will not be addressed; those individuals should seek guidance from Positive Resource Center.

A New Goal was officially born

last year, and the organization received 501(c)(4) nonprofit status last month, said Gill, who added that his own goal is to make his living by helping LGBT people gain economic security.

Eventually, said Gill, A New Goal will establish its own credit counseling program and offer the seminars for free. In the meantime, he said, the organization needs to cover its costs and in exchange would like to offer informative help to those who need it.

"There are wage disparities between the gay and straight communities, and further disparities between lesbians and gay men," said Gill. "Then there are the people who are HIV-positive, who are struggling with a lot of issues right now, including those who during

the crisis decided to live for the day and not save money for the future. A lot of people have gotten into trouble."

Gill said his organization is independent and not working for any bank, and he hopes to establish a board of community members soon.

Wednesday's seminar fee will cover the room cost, overhead costs, and materials, said Gill, noting that the community center is charging \$40 for the room rental, and that packets of information will be distributed to participants. To register, call (415) 871-7883. Seating is limited. ▼

More information is available at www.anewgoal.org.



Jane Philomen O'Farrell

Terry Gill of A New Goal

Stickerers

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sented as we do a community health education around speed is more people in theory will want to be treated. That presents a problem if there are already waiting lists."

At Stonewall, Siever said the agency has already introduced several measures to ensure men looking for help with their speed use can get it despite the agency's waiting list. The agency has left open one hour every day for people to drop by and there is also a wait list group that meets weekly.

Currently, Siever said there are 35 guys on the wait list, with some

who have been on the list for three months. The volunteers have also upgraded the site, adding new information as well as a forum for men using speed to post their comments and concerns.

He said he liked the Haring-inspired stickers because they do not put speed users down, per se. Instead, he said he liked the message because "I don't think it is going to feel insulting to anyone, even if you do crystal. I have a problem with people putting down people who do crystal, which I don't think is necessarily good."

Crystal use is sure to remain a high priority for city and health leaders. Supervisor Tom Ammiano wants more city money to be

allocated in order to preserve the city's substance abuse programs. Duffy is working with the health department to rethink how it approaches HIV prevention and to ensure speed use is part of the equation. Also, Duffy and health officials have been lobbying federal health officials to begin allocating resources to the issue.

"We are looking in the health department at what other things we can do this year and next year to focus prevention dollars on crystal because it is such a gateway to HIV transmission," said Duffy.

On Thursday, August 21 Duffy will be holding his second forum on HIV, with the focus this time being queer youth and AIDS. He said the forum is sure to address speed use among the younger generation of gay men in the city.

The meeting of the City Services Committee, which Duffy chairs, will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in City Hall.

As for the stickers, Applegate

printed 1,000 of the larger-sized ones seen on the sidewalk and about 300 of a smaller version and intends to continue plastering the city with them.

"I don't want this to be a flash in the pan," he explained.

He is also working on a new sticker to advertise for a group he is calling "Fresh Queers" that will feature a cartoon man with piercings. While showing a rough sketch of what the new sticker will be, he said it is intended as an invitation for other members of the community looking to take a stand on any issue of importance to them to come together and work as a team.

"It's for people who want to do something instead of sitting by and just complaining. Instead they can get involved and lend their skills to change the attitude in the community," said Applegate. "It's about taking care of our own. Harvey Milk said, 'You've got to give them hope.' He didn't say do."

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ALL EVENTS ARE FREE! Space is limited.
To register, or for more information,
visit stopaids.org or call us at 415.575.0155

**STOP
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Detour, Patio

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scene. In addition to the Bar on Castro, which continues to undergo a remodel, he owns Blue on Market Street, Luna on Castro, the Whiskey Lounge and Red Grill on 18th, and Lalo's on Market, which has become a popular hangout on Sunday afternoons.

Bronstein remains confident that in 2005 he will be able to revive his plans to own the Detour space and expand it into a dance bar. He declined to comment on the terms of the deal he struck with Natali, but said he is happy with the end result.

"I feel good because it allows Les to do what he needs to do in the next couple of years and allows me to move forward with my plans after that," Bronstein said. "I am glad to have the legal stuff behind us."

In the meantime, Bronstein has decided to close the Castro Flea Market, where he still owns the lease to that space. Within 60 to 90 days he hopes to open a new business, although he would not comment on what type of store he plans to operate. He is also moving forward with remodeling the Bar on Castro.

"The floor will be done in another month or so. Right now we are working on a few cosmetic changes," he said. "It should look prettier in the next 30 to 60 days."

Minke said he would still like to acquire the lease for the former art store space and is hopeful an agreement can be reached.

"Greg and I, I believe, are still

talking and still negotiating and I hope we can work something out together on the Manasek space," he said.

With the Detour finally under his ownership, for now, Natali is turning his attention to another property which has been dark for some time, the former Patio bar and restaurant he operated on Castro Street. For the last two years, Natali has tried to find a buyer to take over the lease and finish build-out on a redesign of the property at 531 Castro Street.

With a price tag of roughly \$500,000 to complete the construction, Natali said he had no takers for the space and is completing the work himself. The project includes building a bar area in the store space fronting the sidewalk, a new seating area on the former patio space, and a new smoking area as well as a retractable roof.

"I have been preoccupied with running Badlands until recently and haven't found anyone who wanted to put up the money. It is a big project," he said. "I have decided to go ahead and finish the construction, and maybe, who knows, I will run it myself when it is finished."

Construction on the Patio space is expected to last at least six months. In the next few weeks, Natali said he hopes work on the Detour space will be completed. Once he is ready to open, he said he will post signs that he is looking to hire staff for the bar. Whether the old bar staff will return remains in doubt.

"I haven't been in touch with the bar staff," he said. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Michael J. Kalmen

Michael J. Kalmen, 60, a writer, director for the stage, film and video, and graphic artist, died Monday, June 23 in New York City. Death was attributed to acute heart failure.

He was most widely known as writer and director of the 1972 film, *Elevator Girls in Bondage*, a "Marxist, transvestite comedy" made with the Cockettes, the San Francisco drag theater group. The film was shown throughout the United States and Canada on the "midnight movie" circuit of the 1970s.

Michael had a unique gift for comedy, particularly comic dialogue. He was able to juggle both the outlandish and

the deadpan, leaving them both slightly askew. An interview with Kalmen and scenes from *Elevator Girls* was featured in the 2002 documentary *The Cockettes*, co-directed by David Weissman and Bill Weber.

Born February 1, 1943, Kalmen was the son of a career Air Force officer, Col. James M. Kalmen and his wife Dagmar. He grew up on Air Force bases in the United States, Germany and Japan, where his precocious talent as an artist was acknowledged by a Japanese master watercolorist who gave him lessons.

Kalmen moved to the Bay Area in the early 1960s, enrolled at the San Francisco Art Institute, and later at U.C. Berkeley where he studied painting with Robert Hartman and playwriting with William Oliver. In 1969, he devised and directed a 20 minute dance film, "The Tree Movie," featuring a group of young actors later known as the Cockettes. Praise by Truman Capote, Rex Reed and others established the group's fame as Kalmen wrote and directed two revues for them, "Hollywood Babylon" and "Hell's Harlots" (1970) and the film, *Elevator Girls*.

Kalmen and his friend, cartoonist and writer Kevin Bartelme, devised and wrote two "topical burlesques" revues in the late '70s, "Showboat to Slezay" and "Sleazy Living," which featured performers from the international burlesque circuit as well as local talent in such numbers as "Nadja Sasquatch," the Abominable Snow-Woman" and the "Pimp for a Day" contest. The shows were produced at the Palace Theatre in SF and the Mudd Club in New York.

After moving to New York in 1981, he wrote mostly for the stage. In the last two years, he was planning a return to soap opera with "The Sins of Sheba," a biblical soap opera based on religious

movies of the 1950s.

Michael is survived by his partner and companion of 38 years, James Paltridge of New York City; a sister, Kay Ward of San Antonio, Texas; a brother, Peter of Lake Forest, California, and six nieces and nephews.

Memorial gatherings are planned for September in both New York City and San Francisco.

Contributions in Kalmen's memory can be made to the Korgos Performing Company, a nonprofit organization, 496 9th Ave., NY, NY 10018.

Robert L. Kehoe

Robert L. Kehoe, 86, died peacefully at home on June 26. During his final illness he was cared for by his longtime friend Miss Frost of England.

Born and educated in Montana, he worked for the National Park Service, served as a medic in World War II, did graduate work at U.C. Berkeley, and began a career in teaching, first in the Central Valley, then in Army Dependents' Schools in Germany, then for many years in the Sequoia Union High School District. He was a supporter of conservation, gay, and humanitarian causes. A world traveler and lover of the fine arts, he was known for his hospitality and helpfulness to others.

He is survived by two nieces and a nephew in Montana and a host of devoted friends. At his request there will be no funeral services, but friends are planning an informal gathering to celebrate his life later in the summer.

Daniel R. Milewsky

Daniel "Dan" R. Milewsky, 47, passed away of liver cancer in his home, Wednesday July 2, 2003. He was



rounded and cared for by family and friends. Surviving are his partner John Trout, his family of friends, and seven siblings, their partners, and their children.

Dan was born August 19, 1955, in Steubenville, Ohio. In 1973, he moved to Los Angeles where he began his professional career in floor covering design. It was there that he first joined the clean and sober fellowship which was an integral part of the rest of his life. In 1997, Dan made San Francisco his new home.

He was an extremely generous and kind person, and this was evident in the large number of friends and family members who were fortunate to be with him during the last few weeks of his life. He will be deeply missed by all.

Dan had an incredible love for animals. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to your local Humane Society or SPCA. A memorial service will be held on July 26th at 4 p.m. at MCC at 150 Eureka Street in San Francisco.

Michael Wyren

January 3, 1961 — July 2, 2003

The day is warm. The green Ford Galaxy convertible bomb is flashing in



the sun. "Look at that guy! What a babe!" Michael, with his long goatee, dark sunglasses, and tattoos, would exclaim as we crossed to the Russian River or the Castro Street Fair.

"Wake Up! It's Big Daddy! Our theme this year will be 'Trucker Trash' and we'll meet at Sixth and Market. Let me know what you're wearing!" Our message machines would blast as Michael rounded up our little family for another Gay Pride Parade, one of his many favorite events.

Michael Loved San Francisco where he lived for over fifteen years, and through all his creative exploits: making hats, designing clothing, and upholstering furniture, he touched everyone that he met with his vibrant spirit and gentle heart.

Our dear friend, Michael Eugene Wyren, died Wednesday, July 2, 2003. He was preceded in death by his partner, Greg Cecco, and good friend, John Gibson. Michael leaves his sister, Debbie Imasin, who came from Idaho to be with him.

Michael, we love you. You showed us how to die with courage, just as you showed us how to always celebrate life.

— Bryan, Mark, Tracy, Margo, Ernest, and Phillip.

Mike Salinas

◀ page 1

"I don't know what to say," Rick Salinas said Tuesday morning, after he had been notified of his son's death by the authorities.

Mike Salinas had visited San Francisco about three weeks ago. He had just edited the *Pride '03* magazine published by Profile Pursuit and was in town to attend various San Francisco Pride events.

Carmichael was distraught after making the grim discovery.

"I'm his biggest fan," Carmichael said, adding that he and Mr. Salinas had "accepted we weren't going to have the relationship we envisioned."

Solid editor

Mr. Salinas began his tenure at the *B.A.R.* in 1992, when he was hired as news editor. He assigned stories and photographs for each week's issue, wrote editorials, and edited the copy for the news section of the paper.

"Michael was a wonderful editor who taught me how to be emotionally tough, yet compassionate," said Dennis Conkin, who worked for the paper for many years as a reporter and assistant editor before retiring from full time work in 1997. "He was a wonderful man. This is a profound, personal loss."

Longtime AIDS activist Jeff Getty was saddened by the news. "Mike was one of the most activist editors I've ever encountered in my work," Getty said in an interview, "and he really cared for the little guy. I would call him with a problem, and he'd say, 'Let's do a story.' He worked behind the scenes to foster change."

B.A.R. arts editor Roberto Friedman called Mr. Salinas "a smart, talented man."

Jim Provenzano worked as an assistant editor for the *B.A.R.* with Mr. Salinas from 1992-1994, and later, Mr. Salinas invited Provenzano to create his Sports Complex column for the paper. They had remained friends ever since, and Provenzano visited Mr. Salinas in New York after he had left San Francisco.

"He really encouraged people to get to the heart of a story. He was very supportive, and com-



Mike Salinas in 1997
Cynthia Lard

bined his activism and journalism to effect change in the gay community," Provenzano said. "When you think of all the incredible events of our community over the past 15 years, Mike either wrote about it or inspired others to do so."

"But beyond the inspiring work was his sense of humor. He could quote a John Waters movie, a *South Park* episode, or a Sondheim song at just the right moment. I wish I'd written down everything he ever said to me; he was that funny and smart," Provenzano added.

Assistant editor Mark Mardon also worked under Mr. Salinas. "Mike Salinas was a newsman's newsman. He lived and breathed politics, and relentlessly pursued justice and advocated for the well-being of his community," Mardon said. "His passions for musical theater and politics existed side by side, making him the ultimate raconteur. He was at his best among friends after-hours on the back patio of the Lone Star Saloon, where he could spin yarns with the best, always bringing tears of laughter. He was courageous and determined in the face of AIDS, and his loss in this way saddens me deeply, but I choose to remember his strength at the height of his career."

Marcus Hernandez, the *B.A.R.*'s longtime leather columnist and a friend of Mr. Salinas's, said he was a great editor, and that he recognized the importance of featuring coverage of the leather and bear communities in the newspaper. "He was astute, aware, and gave recognition to people other than the 'A' gays," Hernandez said.

Mr. Salinas left the paper in July 1999 to pursue his career in New York, where he had previously lived.

Friends, family saddened

LaTronica, Mr. Salinas's sister, who lives in upstate New York, said that she had just been thinking about her younger brother.

"The most important thing, really, is that he was the most generous person I'd ever known," she said. "He was so damn funny. He really was my family and I'm so proud of him."

Jerry Baughman, a longtime friend of Mr. Salinas's who works with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Southern California, and his partner, Brad Lentz, were shocked when they received a call from Carmichael early Tuesday morning.

"Mike was always out and always a champion for that and always willing to fight the good fight," Baughman said, choking back tears.

Mr. Salinas also had many friends in the New York City theater community. He was the founding editor of *TheaterWeek*, a now defunct publication that Mr. Salinas created from the ground up in the late 1980s. In 1987, he was news editor for the *New York Native*, and wrote the first pieces published anywhere about the birth of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, or ACT UP. He also served as editorial consultant and lead reporter for *Back Stage* in the late 1980s.

Michael Sommers, the New York theater critic for Newhouse Newspapers, said, "It's a terrible, terrible end for a wonderful man."

In Mr. Salinas's editor's note for the *Pride '03* magazine, he wrote about the strides the community has made over the years and told people to celebrate life.

"The world we live in now is not perfect, but thanks to the ongoing efforts of thousands of LGBT activists (the well-known ones and the ordinary people who don't get media attention) it is very much improved. We're lucky. And that's something to celebrate."

"... Hug someone you love. Call people far away and tell them how they've changed your life. Remember friends who are now gone and laugh about things they said and did. Celebrate life. You've earned it." ▶

Memorial plans have not been announced yet.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Magnet's 'Day at the Races'

Rick Gerharter

Forum on CDC changes Monday

by Cynthia Laird

Representatives of local political leaders and others will be part of an emergency forum on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recent shift in HIV prevention and education funding. The forum, to be hosted by AGUILAS, an organization serving the Latino gay, bisexual,

and transgender communities, will take place Monday, July 21, from 6-8 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco.

"The CDC's decision to cease direct funding of HIV/AIDS prevention programs means that they will soon fund only programs and services for those already living with HIV/AIDS," said Eduardo Morales, Ph.D., executive director

Declan O'Connor, left, and Gabriel Cervo from Badlands bar were the winners in the "Bartenders in High Heels" contest at Magnet's "Day at the Races" event Saturday, July 12 at Collingwood Park. Magnet, a new health center for gay men in the Castro, held the afternoon event as part of its opening festivities. The center offers basic services such as STD and HIV testing, as well as a social space for men to talk about their health or other concerns. Magnet is located at 4122 18th Street. Magnet's next event is a town hall meeting with Supervisor Bevan Dufty this Saturday, July 19 from 5-7 p.m. at the center.

of AGUILAS.

AGUILAS believes the policy is short-sighted and negates the importance and effectiveness of programs that reach at risk populations before they acquire HIV/AIDS.

"Research shows that a broad-based approach is the most effective way to reduce HIV infection in communities at risk," Morales said.

The forum is free and open to the public. ▼

State tax board

◀ page 2

As the state moves to enact the rulings, questions remain over the validity and legal standing of San Francisco's policy regarding reassessment of domestic partners' property. Last fall then Assessor-Recorder Doris Ward enacted a ruling making San Francisco the first city and county not to reassess the property of a same-sex couple when one of the partners' died. The ruling in effect said the city would treat same-sex couples the same as married couples.

Since then current Assessor Mabel Teng has expanded the ruling to include the transfer of property during the dissolution of a domestic partnership. She also has stood down legal threats from both state tax board lawyers and conservative groups who have threatened to sue the city if she did not rescind the ruling.

Last week's decision by the BOE did not directly address San Francisco's ruling. It could still be challenged. Craig Dziedzic, an openly gay man Teng hired as her director of assessment policy, said so far no lawsuits have material-

ized.

Dziedzic and Minna Tao, a lesbian Teng hired as deputy assessor-recorder, serve on a task force that will begin an educational campaign to make the gay community aware of its rights as property owners.

"In order to get [the tax breaks] the community should understand that domestic partners need to be registered," said Dziedzic. "In the past there wasn't really a great need to register as domestic partners. But now there is some consequence to not registering when it comes to real property and it has an impact on the transfer taxes."

Seminar on DP benefits

For domestic partners, as well as single people, confused on how best to protect their relationships legally and to get a better grasp on the rights the state provides to such relationships, a free Wealth Management seminar is being offered this month by Out & Equal Workplace Advocates and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The seminar will focus on strategies that can benefit every area of a household's financial life with special emphasis on estate

planning.

The Domestic Partner Financial Planning seminar will be led by New York-based Merrill Lynch financial adviser Todd G. Sears, and will address issues that domestic partners (and couples who are not legally permitted to marry) face.

The seminar will cover the federal government's view of domestic partner relationships and how it differs from that of a married couple; discuss numerous planning techniques that can help couples protect their relationship and their assets; legal issues that pertain to domestic partner relationships, including the documents that domestic partners need such as durable power of attorney, a living will, and a healthcare proxy; and charitable planning and the role that it can play in estate planning.

The seminar will be held on Monday, July 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the San Francisco Merrill Lynch office at 600 California Street, in the Franklin Conference Room on the 7th floor. Those interested in attending should send an e-mail to RSVP to todd_sears@ml.com by July 18. Space is limited, so respond early. ▼

Alice loves Susan

◀ page 3

"I think it's great that an LGBT Democratic club supported an LGBT candidate for mayor," Haaland said.

In the other hotly contested November ballot race, the Alice

Club endorsed Kamala Harris for district attorney, and she received 223 votes, or 77 percent. A minimum of 173 votes was needed for the endorsement. A total of 289 votes were cast in that race.

"It really means a lot to me to have the support of an organization actively involved in shaping issues for all of San Francisco,"

Harris told the B.A.R.

Harris is running against District Attorney Terence Hallinan and challenger Bill Fazio for the D.A. position.

Also at the endorsement meeting, incumbent Sheriff Mike Hennessey received 221 votes, more than the 150 needed for the endorsement. ▼

AIDS Ward

◀ page 19

rials, many of which will be on display as part of the hospital lobby exhibit, which runs for a month.

"From the beginning I think we all knew we would be a part of a significant chapter of medical history. A lot of people kept diaries," Keith told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an earlier interview.

Ward 5A began as a renegade wing of the hospital that over-

looked limits on visitation, showed its patients with donations of fancy robes and baked goods, and was often a mixture of humor and grief, a last stop for the outrageously flamboyant and professional gay men alike.

"From the beginning, they decided to touch their patients, hold them, and cry with them at a time when food servers were leaving food on trays in the hall and doctors suited up in masks and gowns to talk to AIDS patients," a *Washington Post* article summarized in 1989.

Keith has asked that anyone who knows the whereabouts of former ward workers inform them of next weekend's events, particularly the reunion on Saturday at the center; cost is \$10 and a potluck dish.

"The ward showed what a community could do in the face of an epidemic," said Keith. "So many lives were changed passing through 5A; we'd like to get everyone together to share some of those stories."

For more information, call (415) 565-7965. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0267812-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Moniker, 700 Taylor Street, #104, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Roxanne Sotano Inc. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/19/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267603-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Three Dollar Bill Media, 167 Octavia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Peter Howells. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/12/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267787-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: FINDECOR, 258 Noe Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Christopher Galotta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/19/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267830-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bill Computer, 39 Fair Oaks Street #101, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed William J. Clune. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 7, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/20/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267883-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Architect of Justice, 855 Sacramento Street Suite 318, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Don L. Whitney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/23/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267773-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: DigiComputing Systems, 1082A Jackson Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 18, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/18/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 255282
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Finest Nails. Located at: 1128 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by an individual signed Chom Luong Truong. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 19, 2002.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267966-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gladis Productions, 2079 15th Street #C, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steven Alan Dallmann. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/25/2003.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267781-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Nick's Powerwash, 2250 25th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Catherine Hendricks. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 19, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/19/2003.

JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267946-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Vic's Attic, 17 Cain Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vicki Zettler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/25/2003.

JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267467-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Groundwork Strategies, 939 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nancy Hale. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/2003.

JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540805
In the Matter of the Application of Solomon Isaac Rogacion Mariano, Jr. For change of Name. The application of Solomon Isaac Rogacion Mariano, Jr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Solomon Isaac Rogacion Mariano, Jr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Solomon Isaac Thomas. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 26, JULY 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268048-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: New Fulton Cleaners, 1323 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nancy Ci Kai Cal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/30/2003.

JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268098-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: ICONA, San Francisco Shopping Center/865 Market Street #T09R, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mee Hyang Cha. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/20/2003.

JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540810
In the Matter of the Application of Chontae Claudisha Love. For change of Name. The application of Chontae Claudisha Love for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chontae Claudisha Love has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Chontae Claudisha Burks. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02 day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540819
In the Matter of the Application of Yasmin Sarafina Djenne Okino For change of Name. The application of Yasmin Sarafina Djenne Okino for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yasmin Sarafina Djenne Okino has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle Jeneen Hawkins. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 09 day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540819
In the Matter of the Application of Yasmin Sarafina Djenne Okino For change of Name. The application of Yasmin Sarafina Djenne Okino for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yasmin Sarafina Djenne Okino has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle Jeneen Hawkins. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 09 day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540813
In the Matter of the Application of Lori Lyn Otersbach For change of Name. The application of Lori Lyn Otersbach for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Lori Lyn Otersbach has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Peter Lyn Otersbach. The petitioner has also filed a petition for a decree changing petitioner's gender from female to male and for the issuance of a new birth certificate reflecting the gender and name changes.

Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

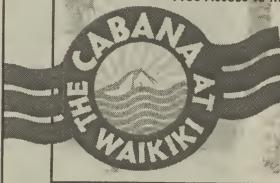
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E29



LEGAL NOTICES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

San Francisco Department of Environment seeks:
Environmental Associates, 1 year position. \$15.66 per hour. Deadline July 18, 2003.
Senior Environmental Specialist, 5642, 3 years position. \$64,428 - \$78,130 annually. Deadline July 18, 2003.
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1632, Senior Account Clerk, 3 years position. \$42,588 - \$51,740 annually. Deadline July 18, 2003.
Application details for above positions at www.sfenvironment.com

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING
The Mayor's Office of Housing offers FREE services including funding up to \$10,000.00 to clean up lead-based paint hazards from the residences of low to moderate-income households. This program will be available only for a short time. For more information on the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, call Ted Tulle at: (415) 252-3102.

VACANCY NOTICE
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be citizens of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsupwrs

Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

Asthma Task Force - File No. 030606
The Asthma Task Force consists of a total of thirty (30) members (twenty voting, ten non-voting), 22 of whom are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Twenty (20) of the twenty-two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors are voting members; two (2) are non-voting members.

Term of Office: Voting members of the Asthma Task Force shall be appointed for a term of two years. In the event a vacancy occurs, the Board of Supervisors shall appoint a successor to complete the remainder of that term.

Sunset Date: The Asthma Task Force has been extended by Resolution 225-03; now expires June 30, 2005. Members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

Vacant seat 9, must be a representative of a hospital association or health care provider institution and is a voting member, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

Vacant seat 12, must be a representative of MediCal Managed Care Insurers and is a voting member, for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

Vacant seat 20, must be a representative of the Department of Public Health and is a voting member, for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

Vacant seat 21, must be an individual who represents property interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

Vacant seat 22, must be an individual who represents tenant interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0268206-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Willows Inn, 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael A. Curless. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 1, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca, on 07/07/2003.

JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267983-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pick-A-Movie Delivery Service, 1760 Pacific Avenue #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darryl B. Gregory. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca, on 05/26/2003.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO:0239873-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Bayareagaytours.com. Located at: 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Brad Goessler. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 07, 2000.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268242-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sales Solutions, 4096 17th Street, #204, San Francisco, Ca, 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Amendola. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or name on July 8, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca, on 07/08/2003.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO:0262911-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Willows Inn. Located at: 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Brad Goessler. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: December 10, 2002.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-
540824

In the Matter of the Application of Nancy Ann Shore for Change of Name. The application of Nancy Ann Shore for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nancy Ann Shore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nancy Ann Dillon-Shore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-
540825

In the Matter of the Application of Angela Jane Dillon for Change of Name. The application of Angela Jane Dillon for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Angela Jane Dillon has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Angela Jane Dillon-Shore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003



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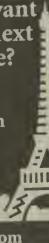
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Trying to beat the heat in Madrid
Blind dates and mistaken identity figure
in 'Km. 0,' that being the Puerto del Sol.
page 35

Eternal Katharine
Hepburn on DVD: 'Little
Women' to 'Love Affair.'
page 41



'Maid' in Hades
Playwright Erik Ehn
hears the mermaids sing.
page 36



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 29 • 17 July 2003

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Broadway, eBay, her way

Patti LuPone returns to Davies Hall by Robert Julian

Patti LuPone has done it all. The toast of Broadway and London's West End, she first received a Tony Award and then an Olivier Award for her starring roles in *Evita* and *The Cradle Will Rock*, respectively. Television roles include the memorable series *Life Goes On* and a brief stint last season as the prison librarian on HBO's *Oz*. Her long and circuitous career path now brings her back to Davies Hall with her one-woman show, *Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda*. And just as I would expect from this Juilliard-trained professional, her telephone call comes right on time for our interview.

Robert Julian: Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda — the title makes me think of Mama Rose talking to Louise at the end of *Gypsy*. Does your show have anything to do with that role?

Patti LuPone: Ironically, no. It's the roles I could have played, would have played, or should have played. Just roles you wouldn't necessarily associate me with, that chart the path of how I got into theatre from my childhood on Long Island to Davies Hall.

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Beyond Friedmans and Greenbergs

2003 SF Jewish Film Fest opens at the Castro by David Lamble



Nestor Carbonell (right) in Bobby Roth's *Manhood*

Highlights follow from the 23rd San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, which kicks off this week at the Castro Theatre, July 17-24.

Manhood In *The Broken Hearts Club*, Greg Berlanti explored whether the wild oats sown by sex-obsessed young gay men are the seeds for alternate "families" of friends who see each other through to the second act that many claim is missing from queer life. While we've always had the excuse that "they" won't let us marry each other, what do that kind of straight guys once known as cads or womanizers do to rationalize their choice of libido over family?

Veteran TV writer/director Bobby Roth drew loosely on his own life to give us *Jack the Dog*, a Jewish fashion photographer who uses snarky good looks and access to glamour babes to destroy his marriage. In the sequel, *Manhood*, Jack (the raffish Nestor Carbonell) ponders whether he's learned anything to help his son Sam (Andrew J. Ferchland) through his own puberty blues. Jack's task is complicated when his sister Jill (Janeane Garofalo) suddenly deposits her punkish teenage son, Charlie (played by the director's offspring, Nick Roth), for Jack to raise. Jill is leaving Charlie's father, Eli (sitcom actor John Ritter, disturbingly good as a drowning man who can only nurture a grudge) to meet men and women on the Internet. In the end, Jack manages to find some core of himself as a brother and a father, a man who can offer love and mean it (opening night, 7/17).

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Photo by David Wilson

Hey there, good-bookin'

Summertime, and the readin' is easy

by Roberto Friedman

Out There is always something leery of boys who don't read books, but we figure you knew that already. It's true that even people who say they don't watch TV do watch at least a little TV. But people who say they don't read books are generally true to their word. Out There finds this more than a little scary.

To read a book is to open oneself up to another consciousness, the author's, and take it out for a spin. Of course, to read is also to commit oneself to an act of sustained concentration, often with no pictures, and we suspect that there's the rub.

We're not sure where a post-literate world will take us, but in the meantime it's the summer season, the best time of the year to catch up with all the volumes we've been meaning to tackle. Here's a small sample of what's been piling up on our night-table.

Right at the top of our list of favorite contemporary authors is renegade novelist **Gary Indiana**,



Out There

whose new book, *Do Everything in the Dark*, is just out from St. Martin's Press. Indiana's early novel *Horse Crazy* is still one of the best explorations of obsessive love ever penned. His take on the modern male prostitute, *Rent Boy*, also rings a lot of bells. More lately, he produced a trilogy of "true crime" novels: *Resentment* (the Menendez brothers), *Three Month Fever* (Andrew Cunanan) and *Depraved Indifference*. The *Chicago Reader* felt compelled to call him "Capote on peyote," which, while catchy, far undersells GL.

Do Everything returns to the downtown NYC milieu where he made his reputation. The narrative flits around among a group of disaffected downtown types: among them, a gay alcoholic couple, a playwright whose fame is behind him, and a hip young thing who works at Virgin Records and is slowly sinking into heroin addiction. It's sort of the last act of the last century; the narrative concludes on September 9, 2001.

Indiana himself is the narrator and a character in the book; and even the musings of other characters show signs of that gelid Indiana eye. For example, this candid correspondence from a character abroad: "I know you've blown a junkie or two along the trail; if you've blown one you really have blown them all. I'd rather eat ice cream. You can have that engraved on my tombstone, if I happen to go first."

What can we say, this type of writing is just catnip to us. If you have spent any time in what passes for urban bohemian, you'll recognize these actors, these addictions, these libidos. Even if one of the novel's characters proclaims "the inadequacy of sentimental narratives we weave around people we fuck on more than one or two occasions," there's still a place in our world for satire.

All Thai'd up

Next up is a thriller set in the red-light districts of present-day Thailand, *Bangkok 8* by **John Burdett** (Knopf). This somewhat implausible tale of murder by methamphetamine-injected cobras and a python mostly transcends the limitations of its genre; and as a tour of the (mostly heterosexual) sex trade and underworld of the Thai capital, it's very good fun. The plot turns out to hinge on transsexual surgery and the unexpected appearance, late in the game, of boy prostitution. Although Burdett has an unfortunate habit of calling young men on the game "bum-boys," his ap-



Burdett knows Bangkok turf.

parent familiarity with these stomping grounds goes far. Particularly amusing are the machinations of a brothel madam as she sets out to exploit the rejuvenating powers of Viagra for a planned "Old Man's Club."

Bonus book factoids: The neon-buzzy dust-jacket of *Bangkok 8* was designed by wonderboy **Chip Kidd**; the cover design for *Do Everything in the Dark* is by NYC artist **Barbara Kruger**.



Farrar Straus Giroux

Lord sat for Lucian Freud.

We're partial to both art books and memoirs, and *Plausible Portraits of James Lord* (Farrar Straus Giroux) manages to be both at once. Lord is the biographer of **Giacometti**, and his charmed life has included intimate friendships with **Picasso**, **Balthus**, and **Cocteau**. A comely young man, he also sat for these and other artists, and the portraits are collected here, with, as the book's subtitle coyly puts it, "commentary by the model." It's interesting to see how the pictures differ, and also, as in a 1978 drawing by **Cartier-Bresson**, how they changed through time.

Finally, the wonderfully gifted author/performer **Jonathan Ames** has been keeping a diary (or "dairy" as he'd have it) all this week on *Slate*, a pleasure we've looked forward to reading daily. Ames' *The Extra Man* is one of the great "undiscovered" comic novels, à la *Confederacy of Dunces*. His new novel, *Wake Up, Sir!*, will be published by Scribner next year.

Kiss us, Kate

Just a reminder that the late, great **Katharine Hepburn**, whose oeuvre on DVD is reviewed by **Tavo Amador** in this week's issue, was not a woman afraid to speak her opinions. Here she is in an interview with queen critic **Rex Reed** in 1979, from her home in Turtle Bay, an Upper East

next page ►

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Absolute Alberta

'Cookin' at the Cookery' in San Jose

by Richard Dodds

Cookin' at the Cookery, the musical biography of Alberta Hunter, lets its subject briefly acknowledge her lesbianism, and then goes entirely silent on the subject. While romance and relationships are usually cornerstones of backstage stories, and indeed figured prominently in Hunter's life, author-director Marion J. Caffey prefers not to take audiences further into that problematic place.

But even a de-sexualized Alberta Hunter has an interesting story to tell, from success in black vaudeville and recordings in the 1920s to a 20-year break from show business to work as a nurse, to her triumphant return to the stage at age 82. *Cookin' at the Cookery*, now at San Jose Rep, provides a generally entertaining overview of Hunter's life, and offers a welcome excuse to hear 20 or so songs that Hunter sang throughout her career.

After a shaky start with a generic little Alberta dreaming of a singing career, the structure becomes more interesting as her life is told from different vantages. Ann Duquesnay mostly plays the older Alberta, but fluidly moves into the role of her mother at key moments. Janice Lorraine not only plays the younger Alberta, but also transforms herself with surprising success into a raspy-voiced Louis Armstrong and the wizened Barney Josephson, who owned the Cookery nightclub



Ann Duquesnay, as Alberta Hunter, commands the stage at San Jose Rep.

where Hunter made her comeback.

Lorraine gets quite a workout, especially in the first act, and she handles it with ingratiating skill. But ultimately, this is Duquesnay's show, and the Tony Award-winning performer (for *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk'*) demonstrates why she has returned to the role year after year. She knows how to command a stage, deliver a story, and sell a song, all required ingredients for this role. Her voice is bigger than Hunter's, and some-

times moves toward Sophie Tucker, but the spirit comes happily through.

Cookin' at the Cookery is light-weight entertainment with a bit of heft to it. Since we can't spend time with the actual Alberta Hunter, this show is an appealing compensation. ▼

Cookin' at the Cookery will run at San Jose Rep through Aug. 3. Tickets are \$26-\$66. Call (408) 367-7255. ▼

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Waterworld

Erik Ehn's 'Maid' at the Exit Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Erik Ehn teaches a playwriting workshop in New York described as "Applied Trauma: Generating scripts through a series of crashes." After seeing the world premiere of Ehn's *Maid* at the Exit Theatre, that course description is a lot clearer.

Ehn has reset *The Little Mermaid* story in a watery Hades where desperation is the controlling motivation. The language is thick with opaque poetry that nevertheless recognizes its own forays into pretentiousness with self-mocking references. The story is a dreamlike series of encounters among Earth walkers and sea denizens who are in constant search for release.

It would be hard to imagine a more evocative production for Ehn's world than what *Crowded Fire* director Rebecca Novick has wrought at Exit Stage Left. A hefty-beamed wharf designed by James Mulligan has been constructed in the middle of the small space, but its surface, close to the ceiling, is invisible to the audience that surrounds it. Instead, we watch the show from below the water's surface, as if peering into a giant aquarium.

Magical creatures rise and descend from the surface. Others hang inverted from the rafters, holding onto candles or even occupied goldfish bowls. The stage



The Little Mermaid is reset in a watery Hades in 'Maid.'

floor is covered in several inches of water through which the characters splash and sometimes walk.

Ehn's 80-minute play is often in its own world of submerged consciousness. "She plays aqua accordion and holds all calls," says one character. "I remember you perfectly and forget that what memory interrupts," says another. "The aquarium is the severed hand your sea is feeling within," says yet another. It is the kind of dialogue and story best left to wash over you than struggle to pin down.

But even when the play becomes murky, there is the ominous magic that Novick and choreographer Dawn Frank are constantly conjuring in the cube that is the production's universe. While no one in the cast is less than adequate, several rise above that: Beth Wilmurt as the mermaid Amanda, Laura Hope as Amanda's mother, Juliet Tanner as mermaid-wannabe Emily, and Mollena Williams as a sorceress fish.

Mermaids, we are told, have no souls. "I can make a soul out of suffering," counters the mermaid. In the world of *Maid*, only pain can bring redemption. It's a grim message buoyantly presented. ▼

Maid will run at the Exit Theatre through Aug. 16. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 675-5995. ▼

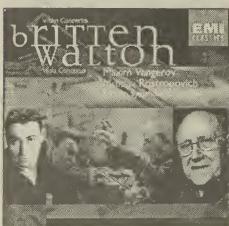
MUSIC

The darker side of Benjamin Britten

Maxim Vengerov brings great gay composer's violin concerto to CD

by Tim Pfaff

Given how many more flamboyantly, openly gay composers the 20th century boasted, it's ironic that the deeply reserved Benjamin Britten became its flagship queer composer. Although he was highly discreet about his sex life, there is more frankly gay and subtly homoerotic subject matter in his works than anywhere else in 20th-century music. He composed much of it for his lifelong partner, Sir Peter Pears (who got the "Sir" Britten knew his gayness would deny him). Then, the unquestioned greatness of his music (and its consistently high quality) led to its becoming the focus of pioneering queer music criticism.



There may be little left to learn about Britten's gay life, but an even greater irony is that there's still so much to be discovered about his music. It's not that any of it has been ignored or undervalued. But the constraints of the market have kept many of the works in the shadows cast by *Peter Grimes* and *Death in Venice*.

Perhaps the most puzzling neglect, given the glut of top-notch violinists working today, is of the Violin Concerto. The sometimes sensuous, often foreboding, and ultimately solemn early work is still seldom performed, and has yet to find an advocate with the requisite box-office clout to give it the exposure it deserves. That may just have changed with the new EMI recording by Maxim Vengerov, who has made the CD even more inviting by pairing the Britten with the William Walton Viola Concerto, his CD debut on that instrument.

Each of Vengerov's EMI discs has been more interesting than its predecessor, but this is the first to unambiguously link today's greatest performing violinist with music that fully warrants his attention. That said, it may be the conductor, Mstislav Rostropovich, who led Vengerov (whom he has mentored) to the piece. One of Britten's major collaborators and a tireless advocate of the late composer's work as both cellist and conductor, "Slava" may have perceived, in Vengerov, the fiddler who could finally unleash the full expressive power of the piece.

With this complex piece, being a fiddler is frequently as important as being a violinist. This revised version of the 1938 work was deeply influenced by Spanish violinist Antonio Brosa, with whom Britten performed in Barcelona just before the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. It's as shot through with sinuous, Spanish-hued gestures as Brahms' is with gypsy music. This makes it prime Vengerov material. Of the several violinists working today whom I'd throw myself in front of a train to save, Vengerov leads with his singularly solid, complex, charged, and tautly energized tone

and towering musicianship. He can dart in and out of the Spanish rhythms, gestures, and colors as stealthily as the composer does, and then meet the composer's more soulful music on its own lofty terms.

Peace on Earth

A lifelong pacifist, Britten completed the Violin Concerto days after the outbreak of World War II (*Peter Grimes* came hard on the war's end), and it is suffused with a sense of what was to come, which lifts it far above the realm of "pure" music. Still, one marvels at the 25-year-old composer's advanced, already fully-developed gifts at orchestration.

Albeit lightly, the drums of war open the concerto, and the violin's high, keening entrance is offset by smatterings of military brass. The emotional rhythm of the opening movement is the violin's repeated attempts to rise above it all (with Vengerov playing like an angel on high) confounded by lapses into

world-weary sighs. The Vivace-Cadenza middle movement gives Vengerov ample opportunities to show off, but the biting virtuosity on evidence throughout it is consistently subjugated to its darker sense of menace afoot. Equal virtuosity is asked of the orchestra, where, at one point, bird-like winds shriek over the brass' low moan. The London Symphony Orchestra partners Vengerov, and follows Rostropovich, with its customary acuity. The two-plus-minute solo cadenza that ends the movement is built on lacerating double stops and eerie pizzicatos that Vengerov dispatches with gritty yet restrained fury.

The cadenza literally sinks in the closing Passacaglia, although the violinist closes his statement with a slow climb to the instrument's peak. The violin's attempts to reassess its earlier music continually unravel in a heart-rending drama (of many deftly characterized scenes) that Vengerov and his colleagues follow to its de-



Concertos by Britten, left, and Walton, right, are given expressive power.

nouement: a song (in Britten, what else?) of soaring, fluttering lament, which CD annotator Malcolm MacDonald aptly calls an "inconsolable threnody."

The gravely beautiful Walton

Viola Concerto (in its 1961 version) is an ideal companion to the Britten, and Vengerov plays the exemplary 1696 Stradivari "Archinto" viola as if it were his first instrument. ▼

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Spotlight on David Diamond

Symphonies out on Naxos bargain discs

by Jason Serinus

One of the more prolific American composers of the last century, David Diamond turned 88 on July 9. Although he has never achieved the mass popularity and acceptance of his fellow 20th-century gay American compatriots Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, and Leonard Bernstein, he has created an impressive body of finely crafted work whose tuneful romanticism and ruminative feel continue to win converts.

Bargain label Naxos has recently released two discs of Diamond's orchestral works as part of their indispensable *American Classics* series; another two discs are forthcoming. All are reissues of Seattle Symphony performances recorded for Delos in the early 1990s. All reissues feature the Seattle Symphony conducted by longtime Diamond champion Gerard Schwarz.

The first Naxos disc features two "ritual" works, *Psalm* (1936) and *Kaddish for Cello and Orchestra* (1987), plus Symphony No. 3 (1945). *Psalm* was first performed in 1936 by the Rochester Philharmonic, conducted by gay composer Howard Hanson; *Kaddish* was first heard at the Seattle Symphony 54 years later, with Gerard Schwarz conducting cello soloist Yo-Yo Ma.

Despite over 50 years between them, the two ritual works share a stoic sadness that reflects Diamond's take on the suffering of the Jewish people. *Psalm* is very dramatic, featuring huge slams of percussion and much modern-sounding dissonance. The work was dedicated to André Gide, and inspired by a visit to Oscar Wilde's tomb in Paris. Diamond met Gide shortly after he arrived in Paris, maintaining a friendship that included the two of them playing Bach, Chopin, and ultimately a



Diamond: tuneful romanticism

four-hand arrangement of *Psalm* on the piano.

Kaddish, which Diamond terms his own "concept" of the traditional melodies of the Hebrew Prayer for the Dead and of Hebrew cantillation, is quite poignant and elegiac. Though Diamond wrote the work for Yo-Yo Ma at the urging of Schwarz, Ma's contractual obligations to Sony resulted in the substitution of cellist Janos Starker when the recording was made in the Seattle Opera House.

In a 1991 interview, Diamond stated that he had admired Starker's playing for years. "It was interesting, fascinating even, to hear the differences in interpretations. Mr. Ma's was extremely tensile, fervent; Mr. Starker's is mellow, deeply moving in its expressivity, completely relaxed. I love both interpretations."

The Symphony No. 3 was premiered in 1950. As in much of Diamond's work, the opening Allegro deciso is marked by lots of forward momentum and vigorous activity. The Andante's sweet, flowing sadness culminates magically, transforming into a far more joyful Allegro vivo. The final Adagio assai features lovely lyricism, with a beautiful elegiac ending.

Enormous room

The second Naxos disc offers Diamond's Symphony No. 1 (1941), Violin Concerto No. 2 (1947), and *The Enormous Room Fantasia for Orchestra* (1948). Diamond's first mature symphony was written under the influence of his teacher Nadia Boulanger; it was championed by gay conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos, who premiered it with the New York Philharmonic Society in Carnegie Hall on December 21, 1941. The work begins quite aggressively, moving into a graceful Andante and majestic conclusion.

Though Diamond wrote the Violin Concerto No. 2 in 1947, it received only one 1948 performance until Schwarz triumphed over legal entanglements to unearth it in 1991. This is a most beautiful work, with flights of lyric fancy that prove quite irresistible. Violinist Ilkka Talvi, currently concertmaster of the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York's Lincoln Center, begins astringently, but settles in to deliver an affectingly sweet performance, especially tender in the middle movement Adagio.

Diamond describes *The Enormous Room* as a lyrical symphonic "free-form fantasia" based on the snow scene in e.e. cummings' book of the same name. The work proceeds from what cummings terms "a new and beautiful darkness" to a closing filled with "things new and curious and hard and strange and vibrant and immense." ▼

Patti LuPone

◀ Arts cover

The *Summer in the City* series often begins with the San Francisco Symphony for the first act, then the headliner comes on after intermission. Will this be the case for your show?

No. I'm doing Act I and Act II of *Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda*, which is actually quite rare. I'll be singing from the beginning to the end of the evening.

You've been a Broadway star for over 25 years now, with spectacular successes on the London stage, and many film and television roles. What's the best advice you could give to others with similar career goals?

Tough question. The business has changed so much. I'd suggest they pass a bar exam so they can negotiate their own contracts, or have an alternative career.

I was in New York last month and saw a small item in a weekly publication that said you were in rehearsals for a brand-new musical.

I'm rehearsing *Passion* right now, which will be revived as part



In Master Class: spectacular

of a five-year celebration of Stephen Sondheim's work. I'm also workshopping a musical called *Doll* in Chicago, for one week only, about Alma Mahler and her relationship with Oskar Kokoschka, a modern artist of the time. It's written by Scott Frankel and Michael Korie.

You were the original Eva Peron in *Evita*, and the original Norma Desmond in the London production of *Sunset Boulevard*. You

took the lead in *Sunset Boulevard* when you were promised you could recreate the role in the American production. Then Andrew Lloyd Webber gave the part to Glenn Close. Few professional collaborations end as badly, or as spectacularly, as yours with Lloyd Webber. You were vindicated in the courts, but if you had it to do over again, is there anything you would do differently in the *Sunset Boulevard* affair?

I wouldn't do the show at all. I knew it was kind of a disaster going into it, and the negotiations were hideous. You're given a warning by God and by the music. I knew it was going to be bad, but it was worse than I expected.

When they're not working, many successful actors go into a panic, obsessing over whether they'll ever work again. Does this happen to you?

Oh yeah, all the time. It's worse now that I'm older and a woman. The industry is changing so rapidly. It's the first year of my career that I've said, "Thank God I can sing."

Some singers, like Mel Torme ►
next page

MUSIC

Breaking all the rules

Interview with singer Rosanne Cash

by Gregg Shapiro

Rosanne Cash has had some highs and lows in her life during 2003. Sadly, her stepmother, country music legend June Carter Cash, passed away in May of this year.

Shortly before that, in the spring, Rosanne Cash released her first album in seven years, *Rules of Travel* (Capitol), which is considered by many to be her finest work. Cash is joined on the album by Sheryl Crow on the beautiful pop song "Beautiful Pain," while Steve Earle completes the dialogue on "I'll Change for You." Her father, Johnny Cash, contributed duet vocals on the stunning "September When It Comes," while fellow musical progeny Teddy Thompson appears on "Three Steps Down."

Cash turns her distinctive perspective on the themes of aging ("44 Stories") and the Middle East

("Western Wall"), and even dabbles in electric country ("Closer than I Appear"). A well-respected singer and songwriter, Cash spoke in a recent interview about some of her current projects.

Gregg Shapiro: You do a duet with your father, Johnny Cash, on the new album. I understand he needed to see the lyrics first before agreeing to sing the song.

Rosanne Cash: He's a great artist and wasn't just going to put himself on anything, even if it was his daughter. I got a great chuckle out of that. I thought it was so cute. Then when I took the lyrics to him, he read them and said, "Yeah, I could do that."

An openly gay singer and songwriter, Mark Weigle, does a cover of "The Truth About You" and has an interesting interpretation of the song. To him, it's about a closeted gay man.

It's an entirely legitimate inter-

pretation. I hadn't thought about it that way, being a heterosexual woman, but I can totally see what he's talking about. That's actually really moving that he interprets it that way.

You know, I live in Chelsea, and I'm the only straight woman within a square mile. I even wrote a song called "The Chelsea Boys" once, but I didn't record it. The coffee shop Big Cup [on 8th Avenue] is kind of Ground Zero for all the boys who are coming to town, and I had a line in the song that went, "Big Cup is Ground Zero," and I felt after 9/11 that I could not put that out. I've got another song that I'm going to put on the next record called "Jim and George," which is about a gay couple.

You reached an entirely new audience via your short story collection *Bodies of Water*. Are there plans for another book?

I'm writing a book of nonfiction, actually. It reads more like stories. It's about a period of my life, 1976 to 1991, but they're all separate stories. It's kind of what I intended with the song "44 Stories" [on *Rules of Travel*], that there are stories from my life that have a beginning, a middle and an end. That's what I'm working on right now, and Viking is going to publish it. ▼



Courtesy of Capitol Records

'I live in Chelsea, and I'm the only straight woman within a square mile.'



In *The Baker's Wife*: 'You have to care for your instrument.'

Patti LuPone

◀ previous page

and Ella Fitzgerald, maintain the voices well into their golden years, others don't. What makes a voice age well?

Technique. Singing properly. You have to know what you're doing and care for your instrument. Technique is it, and training, training, training.

An old friend of mine was once a bartender at Studio One in LA, and he said that when you used to show up there in '80s, you were quite the party animal. Are you guilty as accused?

Oh, yeah. I was a total party animal. You know, those were the '80s.

Over on eBay, where you're known as the seller DIVASPEAK, you're liquidating some of your

personal show business memorabilia. How did this come about?

We're moving down to a smaller house, and we bought land on a barrier island where we're building a beachhouse. Nothing of value can go into it because it's on a hurricane path. I'm selling things because I think others will enjoy them. The important stuff I'm saving for my son. But what am I going to do with my *Anything Goes* shoes or my nightgown from *Arms and the Man*? I have show jackets that haven't gone on sale yet, that I bought but never wore. I'm not really a pack-rat, except when it comes to the theatre. I think it's important to save this stuff, because it's our history. ▼

Patti LuPone performs at Davies Symphony Hall on Saturday, July 19 at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (415) 864-4000.

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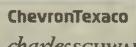
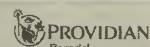
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Jewish Film Fest

◀ Arts cover

Kinky Friedman: Proud To Be an Asshole from El Paso Since Texas-bashing is once again in fashion, let's go for the gold. Thirty years ago, Kinky Friedman and his backup band, The Texas Jewboys, showed up on my Houston radio show, drunk and ornery. Friedman retains the dubious distinction of being the only act I've ever kicked off the air. Simon De Vries' new documentary reminds me why I was right to do so, but also of what of value remains from Kinky's approach to writing the most politically incorrect country music ever conceived West of the East Village.



Friedman: politically incorrect

Kinky's classic lines like, "They ain't making Jews like Jesus anymore," or ballads like, "Ride 'em, Jewboy," introducing the Holocaust as a country music theme, had a brief moment on the charts at a time when even Hollywood was flirting with underground humor. Bob Dylan's introduction of electric guitars at the Newport Folk Festival in the '60s marked the end of folk's grip on the mainstream. A decade later, Friedman's attempt to be a country Shel Silverstein won him, at best, a cult following.

De Vries demonstrates the dilemma of a performer whose fate is to stand in the shadows of his more famous and talented



Bay Area Jewish teens record their lives in *Four Short Films About Love*.

fans (Willie Nelson, Bill Clinton), and who turned to writing mystery novels to convert his fickle fame into the literary version of veal steaks — but, alas, not cash cows.

On the same program: *72 Virgins* is a short demonstrating just how far some young, hung Israeli citizens will go for a lasting peace. *A Good Uplift* profiles the Lower East Side's most accommodating bra shop. *The Worst Jewish Football Team* has fun with the enduring notion that the words athletic and Jewish seldom belong in the same sentence — Shaun Green, Hank Greenberg and Ruby Goldstein notwithstanding (7/19).



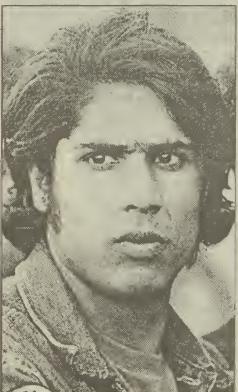
Lesbian 'herstoryan' Joan Nestle

Hand on the Pulse Lesbian activist Joan Nestle literally lives with history — the Lesbian Herstory Archives share her Manhattan home — and has been known to conduct public readings in a black slip. On a program with lesbian shorts, including *The Great Yiddish Love* (the films of Marlene Dietrich, who chose exile from Nazi Germany, are mixed and matched by director Diane Nierenberg with clips of her government-selected replacement, Zarah Leander); and November Wanderin's *Berlin Beshert*, which demonstrates how two Jewish sisters, one gay, one straight, date in a town with a serious Jew shortage (7/22).

Four Short Films About Love Ten Bay Area Jewish teenagers use a camera to reveal the things that are special about themselves and their families. A Jewish boy dates an Irish girl; the daughter of Russian immigrants reflects on the ironies of her good fortune; a younger girl bemoans the fact that her older sisters have moved on to college, leaving her in a home bereft of role models; and a young Jewish girl shares the affinity she feels with her Salvador-born boyfriend. On the closing-night

program with *Samy y Yo* (7/24).

Forget Baghdad: Jews and Arabs - The Iraqi Connection For the four men profiled in one-name director Samir's engaging talking-heads ballet, the Israel that has been their adult home is a kind of well-upholstered refugee camp. These men grew up fighting for their lives in the streets of Baghdad as a double minority: Iraqi Jews who were fiercely devoted members of the Iraqi Communist Party, ironically encouraging the very Arab nationalism that would provoke their exile. A stereotype-busting two hours that reinforce the wisdom of Thomas Wolfe: You may never go home again, but home never loses its grip on you (7/23).



Panthers stood up for the poor.

Have You Heard About the Panthers? A US-born Israeli filmmaker, Nissim Mossek, captured an odd moment in the early '70s when a band of young Robin Hoods shook the Israeli establishment by staging a series of bold actions on behalf of the country's poor. The negative of this agit-prop classic, long missing, was only recently recovered (7/22).

Detained and The Settlers If you really need to know why things are still testy on both sides of the West Bank, these low-key docs say it all. *Detained* spends quality time with three Arab widows who share a Hebron apartment building with their 11 children. Armed Israeli soldiers guard the front door, and the Palestinian Authority is on watch in the back. In *Settlers*, a very stubborn (many would say obnoxiously so) band of Jewish settlers (seven families with 43 offspring) have positioned themselves smack-dab in the middle of what may someday be an autonomous Palestinian nation. Claustrophobic but good (7/20). ▼

DISCS

Kate the Great, out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Katharine Hepburn's recent death at 96 prompts a look at her remarkable if inconsistent filmwork available on DVD. When the American Film Institute selected its Greatest Legends of the 20th Century, she finished first among actresses, despite making fewer films than, say, Joan Crawford or Bette Davis, and despite lacking their box-office clout. In fact, after 1935, Hepburn needed a potent male co-star to carry her films to success. Her 12 Best Actress Oscar nominations are still a record, and her four wins (none for her finest performances) are unlikely to be matched.

Openly gay director George Cukor's *Little Women* (1933) remains the definitive version of the Alcott classic, and Hepburn, perfectly cast, is an unforgettable Jo March: independent, intelligent, skittish about love, yet open to the right man. Two years later, George Stevens guided her *Alice Adams*, a haunting study of Booth Tarkington's small-town heroine. She won the New York Film Critics Award, but lost the Oscar to Davis in *Dangerous*. Davis candidly stated Hepburn had deserved it.

In Gregory La Cava's *Stage Door* (1937), Hepburn is Terry Randall, aspiring Broadway actress, living in a theatrical boarding house for women. Her roommate is Ginger Rogers, and their dishing is sensational. Lucille Ball, Eve Arden and Ann Miller are other stagestruck hopefuls in this superb film, in which Hepburn uttered, "The calla lilies are in bloom again," a line that kept two generations of drag queens in business. Hepburn teamed with Cary Grant for Cukor's talky version of Philip Barry's *Holiday* (1938), a box-office failure about idealism vs. money. Howard Hawks' dazzling *Bringing Up Baby* that same year is the quintessential screwball comedy, with Hepburn brilliant as a flighty heiress and Grant as a paleontologist. Baby is a leopard. The film also flopped commercially.

Hepburn came back with 1940's *The Philadelphia Story* for MGM, which Barry had written for her, and in which she had triumphed on Broadway. Cukor directed, and Grant and James Stewart co-starred, the latter winning a generous Best Actor Oscar. As the patrician Tracy Lord, she is flawless, and many scenes remain marvelous, but it's often slow-going today. She won another New York Film Critics Award for it. Two years later, Stevens teamed her with Spencer Tracy for *Woman of the Year*, a romantic comedy. She's surprisingly sexy, and their chemistry, on and off screen, was legendary, but the film drags.

Cukor guided her and Tracy in *Adam's Rib* (1949), written for them by Garson Kanin and Ruth Gordon. This comic jewel about married attorneys who battle in court when a woman (Judy Holliday) shoots her unfaithful husband (Tom Ewell) after finding him with his mistress (Jean Hagen) raises, but doesn't answer, many feminist issues. Hepburn let Holliday steal their scenes, making it possible for the younger actress to repeat her stage success in *Born Yesterday* (1950) and win the Best Actress Oscar.

Rough passage
Hepburn joined Humphrey

Bogart for John Huston's *The African Queen* (1951), a romantic adventure set in the Congo about a boozey tubboat skipper and the spinster sister of a missionary. Hepburn modeled her character on Eleanor Roosevelt, and it's one of her definitive performances, but she lost the Oscar to Vivien Leigh's tragic Blanche Du Bois in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

She and Tracy were Cukor's *Pat and Mike* (1952), also written for them by Kanin and Gordon, about a multi-talented female athlete. Hepburn didn't use a double, and the movie did well but today looks tired. For David Lean she had a *Summertime* (1955) holiday in Venice, falling in love with married Rosanno Brazzi. She's affecting as the spinster, and the location cinematography is gorgeous, but the film failed to find an audience. *Desk Set* (1957) is a trifle in which she and Tracy spar over office automation.

In 1959 she played Violet Ven-

next page ▶



Hepburn and Tracy: Their chemistry, on and off screen, was legendary.

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Greek like me

by Robert Julian

Ask Me Again Tomorrow by Olympia Dukakis; HarperCollins, \$25.95

I'm sure Olympia Dukakis is an interesting woman, someone I would enjoy knowing. But that fact is something I had to intuit from between the lines of her memoir, *Ask Me Again Tomorrow*. This slim volume is short on detail, long on philosophical speculation, and essentially shallow. Dukakis glosses over her life as if she had better things to do than to sit around writing a memoir. And judging from her personality as it emerges in this book, this is probably the case.

The first 20% of the book is devoted to winning the Oscar for her supporting role in *Moonlighting*. The other 80% of her writing is devoted to her rebellious spirit as evidenced by her career choices, her marriage, and her internal struggle to come to terms with the Greek immigrant experience in America. In short, the actress' life plays out as a rather prosaic climb from rags to riches via the tried-and-true process of pulling oneself up by one's bootstraps. That, unfortunately, is a cliché.

Dukakis' big, fat, Greek-American family is the centerpiece of her autobiography, and in many ways, the blessing and curse of her life. From an early age, she refused to behave as her family expected. She married a fellow actor, started a theater company in New Jersey, and lived the bohemian life. She had three children. But her life experiences are related with the tone and specificity one would expect from a Sunday "Datebook" article appearing in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

For instance, Dukakis reveals that in 1962 she and her husband, "like many couples in that era, had what was known as an 'open' marriage. We had a few encounters — all brief, mostly fun — and mercifully, none of them interfered with our feelings for each other." After dropping that bombshell, without further exposition, Dukakis informs the reader, in the next sentence, that she got pregnant in 1965 and they decided to "close" the marriage at that point. The author seems unaware that open marriages were extremely rare before the sexual revolution of the late 1960s, and the extraordinary potential of this subject is simply abandoned.

There are many similar missed opportunities in *Ask Me Again Tomorrow*, and the result is a mildly interesting but ultimately unsatisfying celebrity memoir. In short: great woman, lousy book. ▼

Olympia Dukakis appears at A Clean Well Lighted Place, 601 Van Ness Ave., July 22, 7 p.m. Information: 441-6670.

Hepburn on DVD

◀ previous page

able in Williams' smash *Suddenly, Last Summer*, billed after Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift. Guided by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, she's magnificent as the malevolent mother, her first unsympathetic role. Three years later, she gave her finest dramatic performance as the morphine-addicted matriarch in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, co-starring Ralph Richardson, Jason Robards and Dean Stockwell. The film did poorly, and Hepburn lost the Oscar to Anne Bancroft's *The Miracle Worker*.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967) was her final outing with Tracy. Stanley Kramer's comedy about a liberal couple whose

daughter (Hepburn's niece, Katharine Houghton), falls in love with a brilliant and decent black man (Sidney Poitier) is dated. Tracy died shortly after filming, and Hepburn's teary performance reflects her genuine feelings for him, winning her a second Oscar. (Her first came for 1933's *Morning Glory*, not available on DVD.) Her Eleanor of Aquitaine opposite Peter O'Toole's Henry II in Anthony Harvey's campy, anachronistic, but successful *The Lion in Winter* (1968) won her a third Oscar, and indulged her mushy sentimentalizing about growing old.

For television, she was miscast as Amanda in Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* (1973), but was excellent that year on the big screen opposite Paul Scofield and Lee Remick in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. A teaming with John

Wayne's *Rooster Cogburn* (1975) was an embarrassment, their geriatric romance calculated and fake. But it was a model of restraint compared with her hugely successful pairing with Henry Fonda in 1982's treacly *Off Golden Pond*. Jane Fonda played their rebellious daughter. Hepburn won her fourth Oscar for her most blantly gooey performance, although wags claimed the award came for slapping Jane, something half of Hollywood long had been eager to do.

In 1994, she played another sentimental old lady on TV, *One Christmas*, and made her final screen appearance, dreadful as Warren Beatty's wise grandmother in his ghastly *Love Affair*, an unworthy swan song. Still, nothing could tarnish the glow of her best work, which is a matchless legacy. ▼

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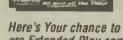
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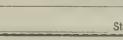
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TELEVISION

Dark nights of the soul

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Last week, daytime TV's groundbreaking lesbian storyline in *All My Children* took a disturbing turn; Bravo emerged as the gay cable network to watch; and Angelina Jolie revealed to Barbara Walters on *20/20* that she not only had an affair with another woman, sexy Asian model/actress Jenny Shimizu, but that she would totally consider doing it again.

The writers on *AMC* have spent over two years developing Bianca's lesbian identity. Except for five minutes when she got drunk and tried to get a boy to have sex with her (and then threw up when he started kissing her), Bianca's sexual identity has been very recognizable to the average lesbian. Her struggles to get her mother, Erica, to accept her relationship did not dissuade Bianca (Eden Riegel) from her queer quest. She's the best lesbian character ever on TV. (Sorry, Ellen.)

Bianca's relationships with women failed (also realistic), and some viewers despaired of the girl ever getting what she needed: a real lover. When Olga Sosnovska joined the cast as Lena Kundera, a corporate spy trying to raid Erica's company, no one knew she would be the first to get Bianca all the way into bed.

Initially part of the plot against Erica's company (seduce Bianca to steal a cosmetics formula), Lena fell in love with her victim and everything changed. The couple has had a tough time, particularly as Michael Cambias, the man blackmailing Lena to get her to steal from Enchantment, likes to hurt women.

Last week, ABC ran promos touting that their old Emmy-winning writing team had returned. A frightened Bianca in the dark with Michael, with the voiceover, "The story you didn't think we would dare to tell," Or hoped they wouldn't.

Bianca was trapped during a storm-induced blackout with Michael. We never actually saw the rape. We watched a terrorized Bianca fight off her attacker as



Eden Riegel as Bianca: violated



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lightning flashed and he chased her. She whacked him with a fireplace poker, but as she ran for the door, he grabbed her ankles and pulled her down.

The *AMC* writers are to be commended and vilified for this storyline. The rape was realistic, unbearably so. We watched Bianca clean up after her rapist. We saw her take her clothes to the park and burn them in a trash bin. We watched her see Michael's face superimposed on the face of every man (and also Lena) who tried to touch her. Any woman who has suffered rape could easily see herself in Riegel's superbly understated performance.

AMC had Riegel doing promos at each show's end for RAINN, the national rape crisis network, which musician Tori Amos helped to found (hotline: 1 (800) 656-HOPE). But why did daytime's only lesbian have to be raped? Why not Mia, Michael's most recent flirtation, who is heterosexual and a kick-boxer? The writers could have made the point that even when women fight back, they can't always defend themselves against a rapist.

One in three women will be raped in her lifetime. It is the second most prevalent violent crime in the US. TV can make those facts known while also disabusing women of the social stigma

of the crime and the belief that they are somehow culpable. Perhaps the *AMC* writers thought Bianca was the only character, because she was a virgin and a lesbian, who could be perceived as a "pure" victim of Michael's woman-hating rage.

TV writers walk a fine line when they address the socially relevant. *AMC* has done wonders for young lesbians with Bianca's character. What will they think now? That the punishment for coming out is rape? *AMC* raped Bianca to tell a tale about how to deal with rape. Unfortunately, the subtext was reminiscent of the late Brandon Teena: cross over a sexual line, and it will cost you everything. Michael told Bianca she hadn't had a real man (she hadn't had *any* man) and she rebuked him, told him she could never want someone like him over Lena. And that's when the courageous, beautiful, proudly lesbian Bianca was raped by Michael. And, perhaps unwittingly, by *AMC*. We wept.

Out of Africa

In other TV news, it was difficult not to weep over the Bush trip to Africa. Despite our loathing of Bush and his agenda, the \$15 billion he proposed for AIDS relief in Africa was hard to dismiss. Not for the Republican Congress, however. Superimposed over the faces of Africans dying of AIDS on the TV news was Bush's own party slashing his AIDS initiative to give more tax cuts to the filthy rich in America. We can only hope that the Iraq debacle, growing more Watergate-esque by the day, will bring this Presidency down. Seeing the Africa trip on the evening news made us sad: Dying Africans have been made political pawns between factions of the Republican Party. Ick.

The ick is still out on Bravo's *Boy Meets Boy*, the game-cum-reality show in which a gay bachelor looks for Mr. Right in all the usual places (pool, sauna, Speedos, etc.) while a few red herrings — straight guys — are tossed into the tank. Watch with caution.

Watch with friends another new Bravo reality show, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* gets gay guys to make over straight men from top to bottom (could we make this up?) We would have

loved to see the meeting in which this show was pitched. It looks like the most fun you've had since *Will & Grace* debuted, so stay tuned.

We also enjoyed Angelina Jolie, she of the complicated tabloid life. *Tomb Raider 2* (the first had a huge lesbian following), in which she reprises superheroine Laura Croft, opens next week. Not just queer-friendly and open to exploring her queer side, but also making a difference in the lives of abandoned children worldwide, Jolie got through the entire hour without trashing anyone, including her father, Jon

Voight, who calls her crazy on tabloid TV, or her ex-husband Billy Bob Thornton, who dumped her two seconds after she adopted their Cambodian orphan boy, Maddox. Jolie's been linked with guys including her own brother, but now sounds like she's off men (except her adorable boy) for good (news for the ladies).

We found her a celebrity worth listening to. As she discussed her teenage history of self-mutilation, she said the important point of doing interviews is to tell the truth and help people. What a concept! ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

alt.music/art

No, it's not queer. It just is. No labels, no genre, no orientation—it's music and art different than the usual, and therefore worth checking out and perhaps appropriating for whichever milieus one inhabits.

For starters, there's "East Meets Left," the title of this year's San Francisco Electronic Music Festival (SFEMF 2003), which takes place Wednesday through Sunday, **July 23-27**, at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street (between 8th and 9th streets).

Live performances will predominate, "with a variety of sources: laptops, analog circuits, homemade instruments, live digital processing, video and mixed-media, custom software midi controllers, amplified light sensors, and others."

Scheduled to appear are New York City artists Oblaat, Stephen Vitiello, Elise Kermani, and Dan Joseph. Bay Area artists include Disc featuring Jay Lesser & kid606, David Wessel, Hans Grisel's Krankenkabinett & bran(...pos (Jake Rodriguez), SPL (David Slusser, Len Patterson & Scott Looney), Kristin Miltner, Sean Rooney, and Kitundu.

The July 24 (Thursday) program with 23 FIVE INC. offers three mixed-media artists: Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarsson (Iceland), IRR.APP.(EXT.) (Canada), and Jim Haynes.

The festival concludes with a 3-set marathon of "fixed-media" (tape music) compositions projected over a 16-speaker surround-sound system, curated by The New San Francisco Tape Music Center.

Tickets for SFEMF 2003 are \$15 general, \$9 student, \$40 Festival Pass, available online at www.sfemf.org or at Aquarius Records. Call the Festival Hotline at 861-3257.

Alternatively, try "The First Annual Unpopular Culture Street Fair" on Saturday, **July 19**, from noon to 7 p.m. just outside Varnish Fine Art (www.varnishfineart.com) at 77 Natomia (at 2nd St.). Appropriately, the gathering is being organized by Varnish and The Institute for Unpopular Culture (IFUC) a San Francisco-based 501(c) (3) nonprofit that supports emerging artists challenging the status quo.

David Ferguson, the founder and ED of IFUC, has been "an international outsider-culture impresario since the 1970s," having worked with Divine, painter Jean-Michel Basquiat, and conceptual artist Niccolino ("Bras Across the Grand Canyon"), among others. His seminal punk label CD Presents, Ltd., founded in 1978, is currently classicpunk.com.

At the fair, experience the DJ creativity of TophOne, Charlotte the Baroness, Doc Fu, Dj Pause, and Steady-P, as well as the Punk Rock Orchestra. Catch works by photographer Kristen Sard (seductive, photographic techniques of illusion), Joe Mangrum (ephemeral, mandala-inspired naturalistic installations), indie filmmaker Kerry Laitala, sculptors Dan Das Mann and Steve Cuthbert, Ashley Phelps (bone art) and Ezra Eismont (graffiti drawings and paintings). Enjoy street-side cuisine from the Zebulon Cafe and the Tempura House; refreshments from the Lagunitas Brewery.

Admission to the street fair is \$5 for adults, and free for children under 12. Info: email ifuc2003@hotmail.com or surf www.ifuc.org



Drag Kings unite! Fudgie Frottage and Rusty Hips lead the revolution at "The 8th Annual San Francisco Drag King Contest and Confab" at SomArts. See Sunday.

Fri

'Art for AIDS' @ Bonhams & Butterfields

7th Annual "Art for AIDS," a Silent and Live Art Auction Benefiting UCSF AIDS Health Project. Preview the art and bid online for 350 pieces of modern and contemporary art donated by artists, galleries and collectors from the Bay Area and around the world. Featuring "Serving Up Hope — An Auction of Celebrity Art." Some of Hollywood's brightest stars, from Cher to Graham Norton, Laine Kazan to Bernadette Peters and the cast of Gypsy, as well as the nation's best-selling authors and local celebs create unique dinner plates for Serving Up Hope. Custom designed, one-of-a-kind pieces will be available in both live and silent auction. Each work has a starting bid of just \$100. Collect a set! Since 1984, the UCSF AIDS Health Project (AHP) has pioneered the delivery of effective and compassionate services to people with — and at risk — for HIV and AIDS. \$25 at door (includes food & beverage from SF's finest caterers and beverage purveyors). 5:30-9pm (Live Auction begins at 7:30pm). Bonhams & Butterfields Auction House 220 San Bruno (at 15th St.). Info: www.ucsf-ahp.org/; www.artforaids.org

'War Is Over: Create Peace' @ Castro Theater

Marc Huestis presents "War Is Over: Create Peace," an all-star evening of live poetry, prose, laughter, music and performance. A benefit for Artists United (artistsunited-ww.org), a group opposed to the invasion of Iraq and supportive of progressive causes on behalf of all people. Appearing live: Janeane Garofalo, Hector Elizondo, and Mike Farrell. Karen Black plays

Laura Bush in a preview reading of the first scene from Tony Kushner's new play, *Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy*. Plus: Debora Lyall (lead singer from Romeo Void); Joan Jeanrenaud (formerly of Kronos Quartet) and Peter Dunn (formerly of Pearl Harbor and the Explosions); Imam Mortaza Bakkur (music); Jay Rosenblatt (film); Jewelle Gomez (poetry); Jumping Buddha Ensemble (music); Maria Muldaur (music); Mark Eitzel (music); Will Durst (comedy); and Youth Speaks Slam Poets (performance art/hip hop poetry). \$27 gala; \$60 gala & reception (preferred seats). 7:30pm gala; 10pm celebrity dessert reception. Tix: A Different Light Bookstore (489 Castro St); 863-0611.

'Juanito, the Toad Boy' @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center's Teen Summer Stock presents a new Mexican folk tale, *Juanito, the Toad Boy*, written by Lorenzo Sandoval, directed by Christine Young. The adventures of a mischievous boy who meets an evil magician, an elephant, a lion, and many other wonderful characters. For ages 4 and up. Approx. 1 hr. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults. Art Card Patrons receive 2-for-1 admission. 11am. Also on Sat., July 19. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave., Lower Lobby (at Market St.). Tix/info: 861-4944; www.nctcsf.org

Kinsey Sicks @ Herbst Theatre

"Get Off Your Fat Ass and See Our Show!" The Kinsey Sicks return home for two nights of new and appalling Kinsey Sicks songs! Combining award-winning a cappella singing, biting wit and over-the-top drag, the Kinsey Sicks have been profiled on national television in the US, Canada, Europe and Japan, including on ABC, CBS and CBC, and were the subjects of a lengthy

cover feature in the arts section of the *New York Times*. They were recognized by the *Hollywood Reporter* as a breakout hit at the 2002 Montreal Comedy Festival. They have recorded three CDs: *Dragapella*, *Boyz 2 Girlz*, and *Sicks in the City*. \$20-\$32. 8pm. Tix: City Box Office. Call (415) 392-4400; CityBoxOffice.com

'Divided We Fall' @ Cellspace

SF Buffoons present "Divided We Fall," a tragicomic buffoon show exploring love and mayhem, inspired by current and medieval fools; the raw energy of in-yer-face punk, and grotesque image. Developed in residency at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, this one-act play of physical and intellectual satire romps through depravity, nonsense and despair. It's trashy, outrageous, intelligent, political, disgusting and cheap. The SF Buffoons are a company of trained actors, artists, musicians and masters of physical comedy. Their work is influenced by Commedia dell'arte, Punk, Drag, the images of Breugel and Bosch, and the modern teachings of Lecoq. Live accompaniment composed by Andrew Cushing & Scott Jacobsen. Master of Ceremonies: David Apocallype. Post-show deejay party till midnight. Two shows only in SF, then on the road to the New York Fringe Fest. \$5-\$25 at door. 8pm. Also on Sat., July 19. 2050 Bryant St. (btwn 18th & 19th). Tix/info: (415) 227-4797 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm).

'Don Juan' @ Forest Meadows Amphitheater, San Rafael

Marin Shakespeare Company welcomes Molière expert Robert W. Goldsby to the helm for the late 17th century work *Don Juan*. This black comedy follows Don Juan as he seduces then rejects conventional morality, including rules of love. Starring Rudy Guerrero in the title role, with Thomas Lynch as his manservant Sganarelle. A lavish



Haruko Nishimura explores adolescence in *Theatre of Yugen's Thirteen*, a solo Butoh dance at Noh Space. See Monday.

production with adult themes. \$15-\$25. 8pm Fri-Sun, plus 4pm Sun matinees. Forest Meadows Outdoor Amphitheater, Grand Ave., Dominican University, San Rafael. Tix/info: 415-499-4488; www.marinshakespeare.org

BAAITS potluck @ The Center

Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS) holds its Monthly Community Potluck tonight. 7-9pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5616; email bayarea2spirits@hotmail.com

Sat

Costume Sale @ Lamplighters Set Shop, Oakland

"Dinosaurs, Geishas & Gowns - Oh My!!" Lamplighters Music Theatre's costume department is cleaning house with a huge "Costume & Vintage Clothing Sale." Great stuff for Burning Man, Halloween, weekend dress-up. Thousands of costumes and wardrobe pieces: fantasy costumes, ball gowns, kimonos, military & occupational uniforms, Victorian & Elizabethan costumes...and some fetching leashes & collars in lavender maribou. Vintage men's and women's clothing and accessories from the 1910s through '90s. 1pm-5pm. Also on Sunday July 20, 11am-4pm. Lamplighters Set shop: 2885 Adeline St., Oakland (at 28th St, between W. Grand and the 580 freeway). Info: (415) 227-4797 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm).

Hawaiian Luau @ Rainbow Community Center, Concord

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County hosts its second annual Hawaiian Luau on Saturday from 4 to 9 pm at a member's home in Concord. Hula lessons, Silent Auction, and Costume Prizes \$20 for RCC members, \$25 for non-members. 4-9pm. 2118 Willow Pass Rd., # 500, Concord. Call the Center at 925-692-0090 for reservations and directions. *E komo mai!*

Supervisor Duffy @ Magnet

Town Hall Meeting with Supervisor Bevan Duffy. Share your thoughts with him on priorities in the Castro. Open to anyone with an interest in

the Castro and gay men. Space is limited. 5pm-7pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (at Castro). Info: www.magnet.org

'Looking Good, Feeling Fab' @ Marlena's

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. present "Looking Good, Feeling Fab," a benefit for the American Cancer Society's "Look Good, Feel Better" program, which teaches women how to use wigs, prosthetics and cosmetics to help combat the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. Featuring a different show every hour, including performances by such local celebs as reigning SF Empress Snatch to perennial crowd-pleaser Ethel Merman. \$3-\$20 sliding donation (NOTAFLOF). 6pm-1am. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia).

Women's Country Dance Party @ Almonte Club, Mill Valley

Professional Lesson 7:30pm. West Coast Swing + Line Dance Plus "Special Dance Performance." Open Dance. 8:45-11pm. \$15 (work exchange invited, arrange in advance; NOTAFLOF). Please be scent sensitive. Email music requests to DJ Jeanne at j@northbayfullfillment.com. Info: Patricia at 415-459-7581; email pjoanides@attbi.com

'Midnight Mass' @ Landmark's Bridge Theatre

Peaches Christ hosts a wild and crazy "Midnight Mass" screening of *Annie* (1982), directed by John Huston, in which red-haired Annie (Aileen Quinn) dreams of a life outside her dreary orphanage with famous billionaire "Daddy" Warbucks (Albert Finney), but the gin-soaked ruler of the orphanage (Carol Burnett) stands in the way. A zany, nostalgic musical with such hits as "It's a Hard-Knock Life" and "Tomorrow." Tim Curry (*Rocky Horror*), Bernadette Peters and Ann Reinking co-star. The Midnight Mass Players present their newest musical stage production: "*trAnnie!*" featuring Peggy L'eggs as Lil' Orphan Trannie, Peaches Christ as Ms. Trannagan, and you the audience as well as one thousand Tranny Annies! *Midnight at Landmark's Bridge Theatre*, 3010 Geary Blvd. Info: www.peach-eschrist.com

Sun 20

'Drag King Contest & Confab' @ SomArts

The 8th Annual San Francisco Drag King Contest and Confab, presented by Madkats as a benefit for P.A.W.S. and CUAV. Confab with Workshops, Make-overs, Photo Gallery, Drag King Kulture Panel, BBQ & Cocktails. Rusty Hips (SF Drag King 2002; Mr. Trannyshack; Mr. Club Fab 2001) gives up his crown to this year's winner at The Annual San Francisco Drag King Contest.

Emcee's Leigh Crow (artist formerly known as Elvis Her-selvis) and Shack "The Shack" Shackwell (aka Lauri Bushman) will keep the kingly, cacophonous, cavalcade of contestants flowing. Contest open to any and all drag kings. Fantastic prizes provided by fabulous sponsors. Starring: The Woodyz (10 piece Drag/Rock band), Fudgie Frottage ("The Man With The Biggest Balls In Show Business"), Crickette Bardot (SF Faux Queen 2003), Anita Cocktail (SFFQ 2002), & Frankie Tenderloin (of the drag king supergroup The Renn Boys). Judges: Precious Moments (Miss Trannyshack 2001), Skeeter (SF Dyke Daddy 1992), Howie Weenis (SFDK6) and choreographer Simone DeLaGhetto of Harlem Shake. Enforced Dress Code: King, Queen, Faux Queen, Faux King, High Femme, Fetish, Formal, Faux Formal, VIP, etcetera. Performance only: \$12 adv., \$15 door (\$10/\$12 students); \$25 V.I.P. preferred seating. Workshops (includes price of show): \$35 general; \$25 student; \$50 V.I.P. (preferred show seating). 2:30-11pm; show at 7:30; contest at 8:15. SomArts; 934 Brannan St. (at 8th). Tix/info: Stormy Leather (1158 Howard); 282-5378; www.Madkats.com

Radical Faerie Coffee @ Cafe Sienna

Radical Faerie Coffee now takes place at a new location — Cafe Sienna at 2041 Market St., between Church & Dolores (across from Safeway, up from Eros). Near the Church Street Muni stops. 10:30am-1:30pm. Info: Tel-A-Faerie, 626-3369; www.radfae.org

'Hubub' @ Hyena Playhouse

Larry-bob hosts "Hubub: Queer Spoken Word," featuring readings by Lloyd Stensrud and Jennifer Argyle, followed by open mic (bring pieces of prose, poetry, whatever of not more than 5 min. total to read; signups at 2:30pm). Stensrud is involved with the Intergenerational Project (intergenerational.org), which provides an opportunity for queer folks of different ages to work together on creative projects; Argyle is working on her first book of short stories, tentatively called *A Mind Unhinged*. Both have pieces in the new issue #12 of *Holy Titclamps*. \$3 donation (NOTAFLOR). 3pm. 2390 Mission St., Suite #10 (basement, elevator accessible) at 20th St. Info: 821-3601; holytitclamps.com/hubub

Mon 21

'Wheel of Fortune' @ Intersection for the Arts

Intersection for the Arts and their resident theater company Campo Santo present the fifth installment of their new "Open Process Series," designed to provide audiences



"Hermaphrodite," 1973 by Arthur Tress, part of the treasure at "Photo San Francisco" at Fort Mason Center's Herbst Pavilion. See Thursday.

the opportunity to participate in the process of bringing a brand new play to life. These are more than readings: they are open rehearsals, design discussions, and interactive forums. Tonight: John Stepling's *Wheel of Fortune* grapples with insanity and globalization, exploring the fragility of the human psyche in a world that is rapidly changing and homogenizing. \$5-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Info: 626-2787; www.theintersection.org

'Thirteen'

@ Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen's monthly series presents *Thirteen*, a solo Butoh dance with live musical accompaniment. The piece explodes with cruelty and sweetness as it offers a glimpse into the life of a 13-year-old girl. Soloist Haruko Nishimura explores moments of emotional and spiritual awakenings. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Florida St.). Tix/info: 621-7978; theatreofyugen.org

Tue 22

Olympia Dukakis @ ACWLP for Books

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books and American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) present Oscar winner (for *Moonstruck*) Olympia Dukakis, beloved in the queer community and beyond for playing (among many other roles) the divine Mrs. Anna Madrigal in *Armidale Maupin's Tales of the City* mini TV Series. Dukakis will read from her intimate, outspoken memoir, *Ask Me Again Tomorrow*, recounting how as a first-generation Greek American she overcame personal and cultural obstacles to become a world-class star. Free. 7pm. Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Ave. Info: 441-6670.

Wed 23

'Curtain Up!' @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center's Summer Teen Ensemble presents "Curtain Up!" While exploring an old theatre, a group of young teenagers finds boxes filled with costumes, old books and

props and their imaginations soar to new heights. An original work created by the Ensemble that utilizes scripted work, song and movement. Directed by Stephanie Temple. For ages 4 and up. Approx. 1.5 hrs. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults. Art Card Patrons receive 2-for-1 admission. 10:30am July 23-26, plus 1:30pm July 26. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave., Lower Lobby (at Market St.). Tix/info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

'Cocksucker'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Extended through August 3: *Cocksucker: A Love Story*, written & directed by Ronnie Larsen, about the few, the proud, the Marines. Starring Josh Feinman (Men of Honor), Eric Womack (Scenes from My Love Life), Randal Hart (The Ritz), Ronne Kerr (10 Naked Men), Octavio Saez De Ibarra, Anna Loar (as Monica Lewinsky) and Michaela Greeley. \$20-\$30. Wed-Sat at 8pm; Sun. at 3pm. Closing performance on Sun. Aug. 3 at 3pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. (at Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079.

Thu 24

'Photo San Francisco' @ Herbst Pavilion, Ft. Mason

Opening night reception: *Photo San Francisco* 2003, the fourth annual SF Photographic Print Exposition, presenting works from 70 galleries and private dealers. Organized by Stephen Cohen (photo i.a.). Featuring works exhibited and for sale by Diane Arbus, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Imogen Cunningham, Robert Mapplethorpe, Man Ray, Sebastian Salgado, Josef Sudek, Edward Weston and many others. \$50. 6-9pm. Exhibition runs thru July 27 (\$15 one day; \$25 3-day pass; noon-7pm). Tix/info: 323-937-5525; www.photosanfrancisco.net

'Getting Away With Murder' @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center's Summer Teen Ensemble presents Stephen Sonheim's and George Furth's "Getting Away With Murder." When a group of very odd ducks congregate for a therapy session with esteemed Dr. Conrad

Bering, something goes terribly wrong and the doctor is murdered. For ages 11 and up. Approx. 1.5 hrs. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults. Art Card Patrons receive 2-for-1 admission. 10:30am July 23-26, plus 1:30pm July 26. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave., Lower Lobby (at Market St.). Tix/info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

Shann Carr @ The Edge

Comedian Shann Carr, whose "Out for Laughs" production was a gay sketch comedy pilot that found itself a bit too early for its time in 91, presents a live comedy show tonight at The Edge. Beer and soda bust to benefit Positive Resource Center. She'll be hosting a screening of her new Docu-Comedy pilot "Out For Laughs On The Ocean," about six gay entertainers, tomorrow night (Fri., July 25) at the Variety Club Screening Room (\$10; 7 & 9pm; 582 Market St.). No cover for tonight's show; \$7 beverage bust. 8-11pm (show at 10pm). Corner 18th St. & Collingwood.

Mushroom w/Gary Floyd

@ The Eagle Tavern

"Thursday Night Live" at the Eagle presents live bands: Mushroom (offering a cross-genre blend of rock, jazz, groove and psychedelia, with special guest vocalist Gary Floyd of Sister Double Happiness); Garth Steel Klippert; and Lake Superior. \$5. 21+ w/I.D. The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: 626-0880; www.sfeagle.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Leather hot in Alameda

Kislingbury and Montoya take titles

by Mister Marcus

They called it the "Circus of Sin" last Saturday night, July 12 as the Alameda County Leather Corps once again staged a successful Mr. and Ms. Alameda County Leather 2003 contest at the Hillside Country Club in Hayward. The stage set was stunning, the sound and the lighting were perfect, and a standing-room-only crowd was on hand to witness the competition in which two men (Joel Kislingbury and Art Lawrence) and one woman (Robbi Montoya) competed for the titles.

As the emcees, Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet managed to keep the audience in stitches with their "can you top this?" banter. The entertainment by Michael Kaye, Kevin Roche, Mark Paladini and (as part of their stepping aside speeches) incumbents John Grisamore and Mistress Nyra delivered a musical message that was met with a standing ovation.

The contestants went through the usual judging categories, facing judges David Barker, Daddy Jean, Jason Campbell, Agnes Maez, Sal Hopkins and Alan Selby. The judge's boy was former International Drummer Boy Dan Hughes, and the Tally Master was Mark Ingham.

The event buzzed along without a glitch and bidders on the silent auction were generous and a huge TV, a Southwest Air Lines travel deal and a DVD player were offered up as raffles.

Finally, when all the speeches were given, the volunteers thanked and the scores added up (Olympic Scoring System), the winners were announced. Ms. Robbi managed to get over the 60% scoring total mandated and was named Ms. Alameda County Leather 2003; Joel Kislingbury prevailed to win the male title. Whoops and hollers echoed throughout the auditorium. A victory party at Larry Gray's world-famous Turf Club followed and there was a victory brunch the next day.

The winners will advance to the next level they choose, and ACLC President Joan Norry breathed a sigh of relief at the ex-



Mister Marcus

Robbi Montoya, left, was chosen Ms. Alameda County Leather 2003, and Joel Kislingbury was named Mr. Alameda County Leather 2003 last Saturday, July 12 in Hayward. They both advance to a higher level of competition in 2004.

cellent showing the ACLC made yet again this year. It was a fun night, the audience seemed satisfied with the winners and so another milestone in the distinguished record of the ACLC was met and passed with flying colors.

Sir/boy wins in DC & AZ
Yes, it looks like International Leather Sir/boy 2003 is heating up good!

According to very reliable sources, the Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir/boy competition in Washington, D.C. also last Saturday night, an enthusiastic crowd was on hand for the competition. Details are sketchy at best but when it was all over, Michael Mitchell of Doswell, Virginia emerged as the Mid-Atlantic Leather Sir 2003 and Mid-Atlantic Leather boy is Tim Woody, also from Virginia. They both advance to compete at the Leather Sir/boy finals in Florida in October. It was also the 25th anniversary of the Highwaymen TNT so a sit-down banquet and awards ceremony also took place.

And in Phoenix, Arizona, the Arizona Leather Sir/boy contest was held on June 28. Jeffers Huesing is Arizona Leather Sir and Duane Mantey is Arizona Leather

boy. They advance to compete in the Southwest Leather Sir/boy regional competition in Phoenix the weekend of August 1-3 at the Sunshine Resort in Phoenix.

Lazy Bears at the River

Hordes of people from the Bay Area and from around the nation will all be in Guerneville (Russian River area) this coming weekend for Lazy Bear Weekend (July 16-21). Everyone's geared up for the invasion so if you're planning to head north, you may have a problem getting a room close to the action.

You can pick up your \$60 Bear Tags at Fife's Bunkhouse (11am-5pm) or Fuzzy Floral at 1622 Main St., next to Rainbow Cattle Co. (6pm-midnight). These two locations will be the HQ. Programs, schedules, LBW Merchandise, Bear Tags, tickets for Sharon McNight & Connie Champagne's "Imagine Judy" show will be available there. Bear Tags will also be available at The Triple R.

Among other benefits, Lazy Bear Tags gain you admittance to all the pool parties at Fife's, Xen (clothing optional) and Triple R on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, instead of a \$10 cover; 50 cents off on beer or soda; and \$5 off of the Sweat, Foam and Stink dances at Club FAB and other parties held during Lazy Bear.

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, July 16-21

It's Lazy Bear Weekend up at the Russian River area, with scads of events all geared to raise funds for charity. Prepare for the Summer Bear Invasion!

Friday, July 18

Leather Night at Renegades Bar in San Jose featuring the Wheel of Torture from 2100 to closing.

Exiles of SF present Ms. Heather expounding on "Erotic Stripping" at the Women's Building. Doors open 1930; Program from 2000-2200. \$3 for members and \$6 for others.

Weekend, July 18-20

International Ms. Leather competition in Omaha, Nebraska; Russ Cosgrove steps aside for a successor and IML John Pendal makes his first US appearance since winning the title in May. For more info, click on www.IML.org. Host hotel: Best Western Redick at bargain rates.

Sunday, July 20

8th Annual Drag King contest & Confab to benefit PAWS at SomArts (934 Brannan @ 8th). \$12 ad-

vance, \$15/door and available at Stormy Leather (1158 Howard St.). For more information click on www.madkats.com.

"Just a Party," a beer/soda bust hosted by SF Leather Daddy Tony Koester at Daddy's from 1600 to 2000. Fun and mayhem.

Wednesday, July 23

Leather Buddies tryst at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open from 2000 to 2300. Strict, really strict dress code, no cologne, and no white sneakers. For info, call: 777-HEAD.

Weekend, July 24-26

Great Plains Regional Leather Sir/boy contest in St. Louis, MO. No details at my deadline.

Friday, July 25

SF Leather Daddy annual contest at the Eagle Tavern from 2000-2200 when Tony Koester steps aside. Who will be next?

Saturday, July 26

California Leatherman, Woman, Boy contest at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (8th & Market) with contestants from all over the state.

PORN

Funny bones

by John F. Karr

Wash West rocks!" proclaimed the Chief Arbiter at my videostore as he handed me a copy of the popular director's *The Hole*. Arbiter wasn't hard-pressed to say why. "It's funny, and it has three good sex scenes."

Yes, funny is the most notable thing about *The Hole*. It's that very rare porn outing where comedy actually enhances sexuality (the director wise enough to stop the jokes when he starts the sex). *The Hole* is a reworking of last year's Hollywood feature *The Ring*, a thriller in which anyone who views a mysterious videotape dies after seven days. Death wouldn't work in porn, necrophilia being a sure no-no on Mr. Ashcroft's list. So in this driller, much amusement is wrung from the video turning its viewers gay. The satire is tart: one newly-gay muses, "For years, everybody has been wondering, is it genetics or environment? Nobody said anything about a videotape." Another enthuses, "Just think, dude. Now that we're homo-identified, we can go to all those circuit parties and stuff!"

Joking aside, the characters naturally fear their fate. Providing an unvoiced subtext that sure makes the jokes hit home are issues of self-acceptance, the meaning of masculinity, and exactly what "normal" is.

A tautly directed and skillfully played opening sets the movie's plan of attack: bemusement followed by arousal. A week after watching the video, homosexualities are creeping up on Josh. He can't help ruffling his buddy's hair. He doesn't get aroused when watching straight porn, and when buddy strips his shirt and dances a straight boy's authentically graceless hoochie-koos, he pops a woodie. Buddy closes in, repeating, "You're gay," and finally silences Josh's protestations with a kiss. "Did you see the video, too?" the hapless lad asks. Buddy assures him, "I'm still straight. But my girlfriend's out for the night."

And we're artfully into some protracted smooch 'n' suck. Josh has heavy lips and swelling curves that make him a little Lolito, but he isn't the best cock sucker. But what the hey, he's only been gay five minutes! His buddy, Pete (Derek Lang, with bulgingly solid

Ex-straight: Josh and Benny go gay in a hurry in *The Hole*.

breasts, biceps, buttocks and, certainly, boner) is much better working on Josh's cock, which we see is a tight and snappy thing with a Prince Albert. Pretty progressive for a dude.

Low brow

Sidebar: I know that these days even straight boys are trimming their pubes (I bone up on the readers' submissions to *Playgirl*). So I didn't

question Pete's severe clipping, because its shape still suggests something that most gay men will remember as pubic hair. But poor Josh! His topiary treatment has left only a nappy little caterpillar crawling over his cock, looking for all the world like Groucho Marx's eyebrow. Kinda makes a punch-line outta his prick.

His asshole ain't no joke, though, and after a slow entry, Pete grinds in it, a pestle to Josh's mortar. Yet despite the attractive and bonerific youthfulness of both boys, there's not much excitement to their coupling. Guess this isn't one of the movie's three sexy scenes.

An investigative reporter named Benny (played with appropriate but I'm sure unintentional deadpan by the somewhat stolid Tag Eriksson) is hot on the trail of the video. Josh explains how he's become a friend of Mary. "I believe the phrase is 'a friend of Dorothy,'" Benny corrects him. But what the hey, the kid's only been gay a half-hour.

Benny's sleuthing leads him to a mountain cabin, where a handsome young man artfully caresses

Whoops, it's a wrong turn. A gangbang performed upon the cute but ill-used Trent Atkins by the happily named "Mexican Boys' Swinging Association" is decidedly not swinging. Dispassionate and mechanical, it's not Sexy Scene #4. The movie recovers from this miscalculation, however, when it inevitably couples Josh with Benny. Josh hasn't become a better cocksucker, and Benny needs practice himself, but they have a good time, and even smile at each other. Josh has a swell boner, and Benny proves to be a pile-driving fucker. So without actually becoming Sexy Scene #4, this one's hot romance attains some momentum.

Chief Arbiter was right: Wash West actually put together a porn movie that's coherently plotted, comedic, and fitfully sexy (those three scenes)! He rocks! ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Greg Taylor will be there doing a bonfire at midnight at Fife's Bunkhouse, and all the bears will be dancing in the woods!

For more info, click on hometown.aol.com/lazybearweekend

Birthday and more

Locally, the hard-working Ross Dierking had been so busy with the *SoMo Bare Chest Calendar* float and other tasks, he completely forgot about his birthday, so last Friday night, he celebrated with a big group of his "closest friends" at the Powerhouse.

There's a lot more coming your way in the coming weeks and months so stay tuned here and on www.LeatherPage.com for all the latest from around the world. ▼



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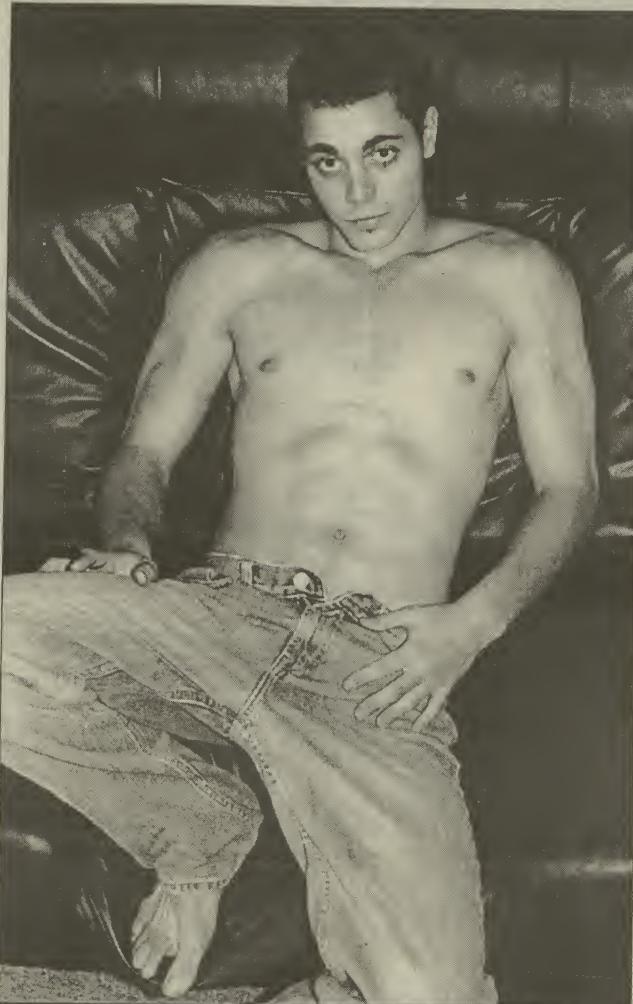
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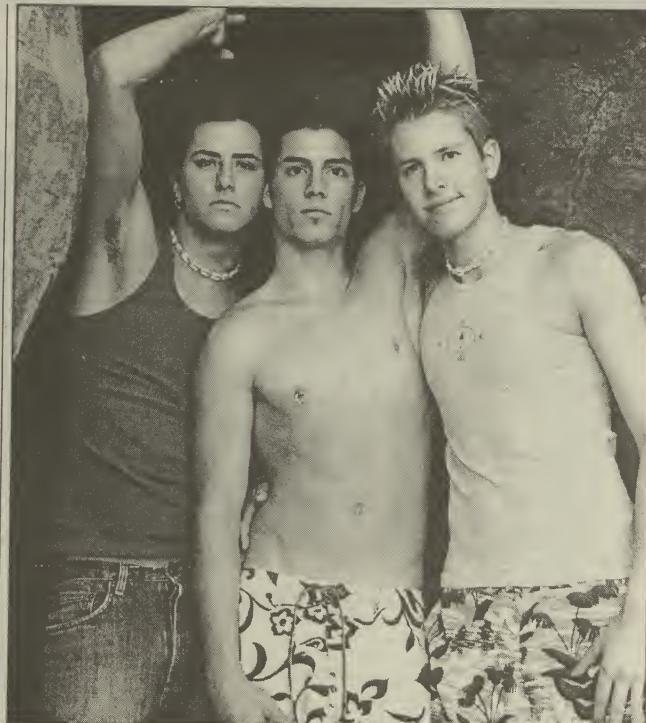
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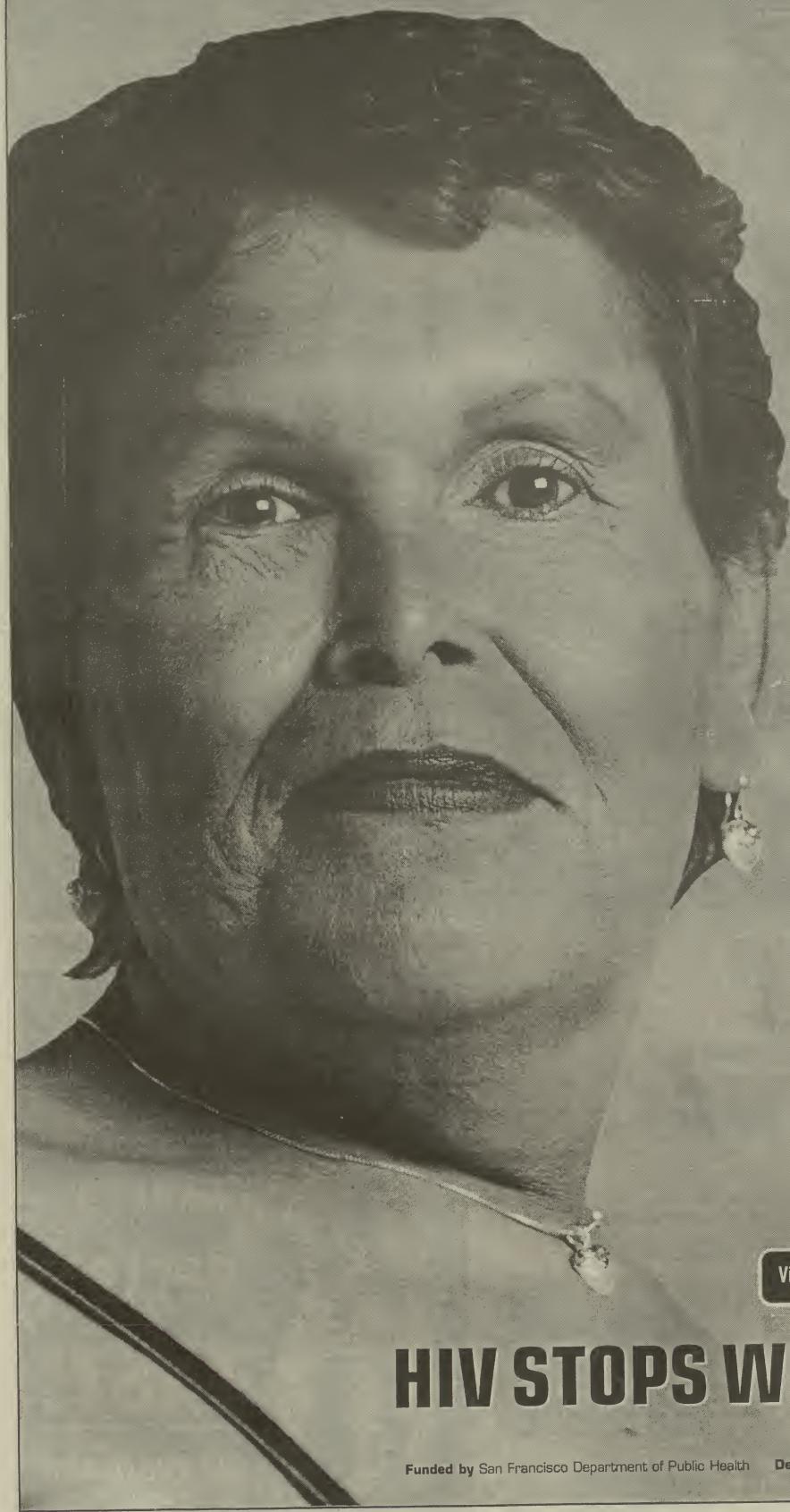
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I use condoms to protect myself from other HIV strains or from getting STDs.

But mostly, I want to make sure that I don't give HIV to anyone else.

I know what this disease is like, and it would break my heart to give it to somebody else.

Felicia — Positive since 1987

Visit me on the web, maybe I can inspire you.

HIV STOPS WITH ME.ORG

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